Shavings

DETROIT AREA WOODTURNERS

April 2005 http://www.DetroitAreaWoodturners.org

Wood Toxicity

There is no doubt that some woods can be potentially toxic to some people. The question is always one of "what degree". This cannot truly be answered. Each individual has different degrees of resistance, some more prone to allergic reactions, and others not so. Every day our knowledge of tree biology and chemistry grows, leaving us with more information, but also more questions. How all this relates to each individual is impossible to know. All we can say is "be cautious". Use new woods in a limited way, with proper respirators, until you know that it has no adverse reaction with your body. Be cautious...just because something doesn't cause a reaction the first time doesn't mean you'll never have an allergic reaction. Your sensitivities can build with exposure. Allergy-prone people should be more cautious in the woods they chose and everyone should limit exposure to sawdust of new woods the first few times you work with it. Have fun, but be healthy!

For more information, go to:

www.thewoodbox.com/data/wood/toxicityinfo.htm

Join the AAW!!

New Club

A new club, the Bluewater Area Woodturners, has formed for people living in the Richmond- St. Clair area. For more information, regarding this club, check out their web site:

~bluewaterareawoodturners " http:// home.comcast.net./~bluewaterareawoodturners

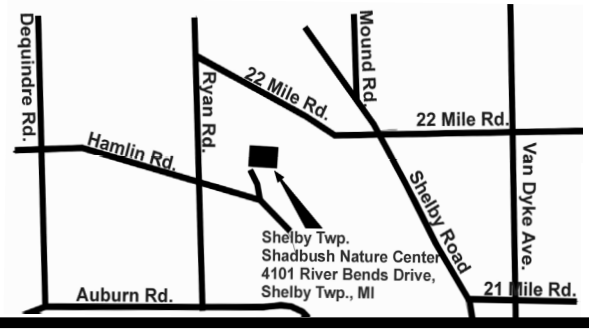
If you don't have a computer, contact Bill Youngblood, who is President of the new club or Ken Reidel, who is the Vice-President.

Ohio Valley Symposium

The Ohio Valley Woodturners Guild, OVWG, is pleased to announce a new web site for the "Turning 2005" Symposium to be held Oct. 21,22 & 23, 2005 in West Harrison, IN. The Symposium will feature six world class domestic and international turners. The list includes Jimmy Clewes, J, Paul Fennell, John Jordan, Ray Key, Richard Raffan and Chris Stott. In addition, Chris Ramsey, "The Kentucky Hat Man" will be turning his Hat tricks. Also over 24 hours of top mid-West turners will show their techniques. Attendance limited to the first 225 people to give attendees top notch seats and chance to interface with demonstrators and other turners. Class venders with the latest tools and wood suppliers will be at the Symposium.

Next Meeting -April 17, 2005

Meeting Highlight will be "Sharpening Tools & Oil Lamps". The Detroit Area Woodturners meet at the Shelby River Bends Park, Shadbush Nature Center, Shelby Township, MI, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. The Park is located on Ryan Road between 21 and 22 Mile Roads opposite the Hamlin Road junction. All visitors are welcome.



Editor's Notes:

Greetings. Thank you for the articles, different members have been sending me. It helps to make this newsletter worthwhile.

This newsletter is designed to reflect your needs and interests. For that to happen, I need to know what you are interested in seeing covered. I also need people to submit information. Choose a topic (ie. woods, tools, a technique), research it, and send it on. For the May newsletter to get out, in a timely fashion, I need to have your submissions **before the 7th of May.** If there are any errors or things you wish to see changed, please don't hesitate to call (519-945-0647) or e-mail me (rubycler@sympatico.ca). Thank you. Ruby

Calendar of Events

DAW meets the third Sunday monthly, unless adjusted for holidays, September through June. General Meetings are scheduled from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Executive meetings are open to all club members.

- April General Meeting - Turning end grain
- May 11/05 - Executive Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Chet Bisno's home
- May 22 /05 - General Meeting - DAW Picnic and Chain Saw demo
- June 15/05 - Executive Meeting 7:00 p.m. Location to be announced

Don't Forget the Meeting Door Prizes!!

Door prizes are an important part of each meeting. Members enjoy getting the prizes. The monies, from the raffle, pay for things like operating expenses. Please bring along any extra wood, tools or other items you feel you can afford to donate to our prize table.

DAW Officers - Here to Help! Don't Hesitate to Call

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Rules For Good Design?

Submitted by Ken Reidel
http://www.woodcentral.com/russ/russ1.shtml

The question, "What is a good design?" is all too often answered with, "There are no rules", "You just know it when you see it.", or "You either have it, or you don't." I have heard these answers from the "experts" at AAW Chapter meetings, from demonstrators in various venues, and from informal discussions among woodturners. Many articles in "American Woodturner" have made the implication that there is an "insight" that is known only to a very few among us. It would appear that there is no hope for those of us who are not gifted with a natural ability to discern pleasing shapes and proportions.

Nothing is farther from the truth.

Pleasing shapes have been found in every civilization throughout history. When we deny their existence, we are either admitting that we are artistically illiterate, or that we refuse to believe that the rules, used for 3000 years of pottery and furniture design, could have any application to articles turned from wood.
We can either mathematically calculate pleasing proportions from an ancient formula, or we can use some "Rule-Of-Thumb" formulas.

The "Rule Of The Golden Mean".

The Greeks perfected and used the "Golden Mean," a formula for the ratio between the short side and the long side of a rectangle that will appear balanced to the viewer. I learned to use the "rule" for furniture design back when wood shop (Manual Arts) was still a required subject in high school .a

Design continued from page 2 ....

The **Rule Of The Golden Mean** simply states that: "The smaller is to the larger as the larger is to the whole." Without a lot of discussion, this can be reduced to: "The relationship between the smaller and the larger is the ratio of 1 to 1.618". To complete the "rule," the sum of the length and width is the same as the length, multiplied by 1.618.

We can find examples of the rule in the sizes of tables and other furniture. A 72" long dining table is 45" wide. An oval coffee table that is 42" long is 26" wide. The 60" round dining table still has a balanced proportion with a 36" leaf inserted in its center. A bookcase that is 72" tall will be 45" wide. All of these examples fit the **"Golden Mean",** the larger (length) is the smaller (width) multiplied by 1.618.

Bowl Design

To apply the "Rule" to a bowl design, we divide the diameter by 1.618 to determine its height and divide its height by 1.618 to determine the diameter of its base.
As an example: If we want to turn a 10" diameter bowl, its height will be: 10" ÷ 1.618 = 6.180", or 6¼" height And the base diameter is: 6¼" ¸ 1.618 = 3.72", or 3¾" These dimensions will give us a bowl of pleasing proportions, as taught by the ancient Greeks. What we do with the curves between these dimensions, is a topic for another discussion.

Rules-Of-Thirds

There are other rules of proportion that we can use. One of these is the "One Third-Two Thirds" Rule. It is easier to use and similar to the "Golden Mean," when applied in bowl design.

Rule 1 - "The bottom diameter is 1/3 that of the largest diameter. Again using our same 10" bowl as an example, the bottom diameter would be 3 1/3", but 3¼" can be used for easier measurement.

Rule 2 - "The height is either 2/3 (preferred) or 1/3 (optional) that of the largest diameter. Using the same 10" bowl, its preferred height would be 6¾", or it could be a 3½" height in its shallower form. Both would appear to be proportional to the viewer.

Rule 3 - Bowl shapes have a more pleasing appearance ,when the maximum diameter is not at the top rim, but is located below the rim which is a smaller diameter. How far below the rim can be defined as: "If the height from Rule-2 is divided into 3 equal parts, the largest diameter will be 1/3 down from the top." This rule can also be inverted, locating the major diameter up 1/3 from the bottom. Using our same example from Rule-2, the 10" bowl that is 6¾" in height", will have its maximum diameter located 2¼" down from the top, or up the same amount from the bottom in its inverted form.

Rule 4 - I added this rule as a follow-up to Rule-3 after being asked for some guidance on how much smaller the rim diameter should be. I measured several bowls that looked pretty good to find something that they shared, and came up with the following: "The diameter of the bowl, at the rim, is smaller than the largest diameter, by half the distance that the largest diameter is below the top of the bowl."
In other words, for the same 10" bowl that is 6¾" in height, the largest diameter is located 2¼" down from the top. With this "rule", its diameter at the rim would be half that amount smaller, or 1 1/8" less than the 10" diameter, making it 8 7/8" at the rim. If this bowl had the alternate shape that placed the largest diameter near the bottom, or 4½" below the top, the rim would be smaller by half that amount, or 2¼" smaller that the 10" diameter. Thus bowl would be 7¾" diameter at the rim.

Conclusions

Now we know why the bowl we turned from that expensive 10"X 10" X 3" bowl blank "just didn't look right". Using either of the rules, the blank should have been at least 6" thick for the 10" diameter bowl. A better use of the wood may have been cutting it into four pieces and making a set of 5" bowls that had a more pleasing shape.

to be concluded in the next issue.

Woodworking & Tool Sources in NE Detroit

• **WoodCraft**, Sterling Heights, Sterling Place Shopping Center, 37864 Van Dyke, Sterling Heights.
• **Rockler Woodworking**, 29918 Woodward Avenue, Royal Oak, (Woodward at 12-1/2 MI)
• **Performance Tools** - 26772 Dequindre, Warren, MI. (Just S. of 11 Mile Rd.)
• **Butki - Saw and Tool**, 26707 Van Dyke, Center Line, MI (Just S.of I-696)
• **Harbor Freight** - 34900 Grossbeck Hwy, Clinton Township, MI (SE Corner of Grossbeck and 15 Mi.)
• **Abrasive Brokers**, 1695 Rochester Road, Troy, MI (Just N of Maple Rd)
• **Wholesale Tool**, 12155 Stephens Rd, Warren, MI 48089 (S of 10 Mile, E of Hoover Rd.)
• **Glenn Wing Power Tools** 33656 Woodward Ave, Birmingham, MI 248-644-5790 (discount to DAW members).

New Web Sites

- These are some interesting web sites submitted by members. You need to check them out:
- **www.turnedwood.com/ tools&jigs.html#Laser**
  www.woodcentral.com
- Check our web page for more good URLs.

Hearing Safety by Bill Youngblood

Nearly 36 million Americans suffer from a discomfort called *Tinnitus.* This is a ringing in the ears, that can range from a low roar to a high-pitched whine or squeal. It is both annoying and distracting. It is usually accompanied by various amounts of loss of hearing in one or both ears.

Tinnitus is generally caused by exposure to loud noise, although there are other causes such as high or low blood pressure, thyroid problems, and diabetes among others. Since, we are woodworkers, I will review the loud noise causes.

I spent most of my life in the construction industry primarily in auto plants, foundries, stamping plants, and power houses. Until about 20 years ago, noise was just one of the by-products of industry and you learned to live with it. Then OSHA began stepping in and forced employers to provide ear protection in high noise areas. For some of us, it was too late. The damage was done. There is little to nothing that can be done for tinnitus.

Today, there are many types of ear protection. The most common are the ear plugs made of a soft sound absorbing material. tThey are inserted into the ear and will shape itself to each individuals ear canals. I have heard of one case, where the inserting of these caused ear wax to be pushed into the inner ear resulting in severe pain and balance problems.

I prefer a good set of ear muffs. You can get an inexpensive set for less than $20 that will drop the decibel level about 20 points. About $30 will get you a set that will cut 30 decibels. I would recommend that you get the best that you can afford. It is a cheap price to pay for preserving your hearing for the rest of your life.

Although my hearing was damaged years ago, I always wear earmuffs when using the planer, router, jointer, table saw, or chain saw in hopes of not doing any further damage. If you can't carry on a normal conversation, due to noise, you should probably have some sort of ear protection in use. Take it from one who knows.

DETROIT AREA WOODTURNERS

Stamp

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Spring has sprung!!!!!!!!!!