

Minutes for the First State Woodturners meeting held at the New Castle, Delaware Woodcraft on October 5, 2011.

Jeff Turi (President First State Woodturners) opened the meeting promptly at 7pm.

30 people were in attendance.

There was no Show & Tell at the October meeting so that we could allow our demonstrator more time.

Alan Lacer was our guest demonstrator for the evening. Alan has been involved in the turning field for over 35 years as a turner, teacher, writer, exhibition coordinator, expert witness, demonstrator and past president of the American Association of Woodturners. His work has appeared in a number of regional and national exhibitions. Alan has been a regular instructor and demonstrator of the craft--having worked in all 50 states as well as 5 foreign countries. The American Association of Woodturners awarded him their Lifetime Honorary Member Award for his contributions to the field.

Alan started his demo by creating several miniature tops. He mounted a piece of stock approximately ½" to 9/16" square, driving it into the #2 Morse taper. Alan finds starting this way will allow him to be more precise when turning miniatures. He also finds that using a bigger tool works better for miniature work. As everyone witnessed, the miniature tops he created were very well done and seemed to spin forever. The second project was an end grain box. Alan inserted a "Safety Center" which allows him to rough the piece without worry of a catch. He does however modify the cup center by filing three notches on the outside of the center with a chainsaw file. This modification grips the piece more but still allows it to spin freely if there is a bad catch. Alan started roughing the outside shape with a large spindle roughing gouge and then switched to a large skew. After the dimensioning of the outside with the skew was completed, Alan created a V groove to start the separation of top and bottom. He made the groove large enough to allow him to part the pieces with a hacksaw blade. He creates the lid first and then keys everything from that. Alan used a scraper to hollow the box. He honed his scraper and then created a slight burr with a burnisher. He explained that by using the hone the burr is much more uniform after burnishing. To complete the interior, Alan used a hook tool making one or two passes to give a very smooth surface. Just a slight amount of sanding is needed since he used the skew on the outside and the hook tool on the interior. Alan never sands the mortise or tenon on the lid itself. To finish the box, he uses a Sam Maloof finish created by mixing 1/3 boiled linseed oil with 1/3 pure tung oil and 1/3 Behlens Rock Hard Finish "Gloss". He builds the finish by putting it on and removing it, sometimes using four or more coats.

Note: Hook tools are not available commercially but instructions for making one are available here on Alan's website. <http://woodturninglearn.net/handouts/ho-hooktool.html>

The 50-50 brought in \$37.00 for the club.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 2nd at 7pm at WoodCraft in New Castle. Bring your Show & Tell items, questions, or tools that need sharpening.

The First State Woodturners Christmas Party will be held at "The Center for Art in Wood", formerly the Wood Turning Center in Philadelphia on Saturday December 10th at 12 Noon.

The New Castle, Delaware Woodcraft store is independently owned and allows the use of lathes, tools, and the meeting room without charge to First State Woodturners.