

Minutes for the First State Woodturners meeting held at the New Castle, Delaware Woodcraft on September 7, 2011.

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

37 people were in attendance.

There were three new faces in the crowd, Jim, Jim and Roy. Roy Tedesco moved up from Richmond, Virginia where he was active at the local Turning Club. Roy chose to join us as a member of First State Woodturners. Welcome all!

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

S. Ashley Murphy a Sculptural Woodturner from Lincoln University, Pennsylvania was our guest demonstrator for the evening. When he was 17, Ashley attended one of David Ellsworth's first classes at David's shop in Quakertown. Ashley stated that he doesn't really get his inspiration from other Woodturners but does get inspired by the work of Ceramics and Glass Artists. Ashley was one of the recipients of "The Awards of Excellence" at the 2011 American Craft Council show in Baltimore. Ashley will also be showing his work at The 35th Annual Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show, November 10-13 2011.

Ashley started the demo by placing the piece between centers. He usually turns recycled timber or discarded telephone poles. He roughs the piece watching closely to see what grain patterns emerge. He may move the piece several times until he gets the best grain match. He then switches from centers attaching the piece to a faceplate. Ashley pointed out that he uses screws with full length threads so that the piece does not wobble. After completing the outside of the piece Ashley takes it off the lathe and sands it with a Porter Cable Oscillating sander starting with 80 grit and moving right to 220 then 400 and 600 grits. After sanding is complete he then coats the piece with Waterlox and allows it to dry before hollowing. If the piece has voids or knots he may even use shrink wrap to help keep the piece together. When hollowing, he does it in steps creating a ridge he calls a memory point. As he completes a section he can move his tool back down to the ridge below and start a new ridge and work his way back up getting the correct thickness at the top of the piece before moving further down. After the piece is hollowed and the bottom is completed, Ashley sands the piece with 600 grit to dull the sheen that the Waterlox had created allowing a more natural wood appearance. Ashley states, "Each piece tells a specific story, whether it be about a path through life experiences, where the specific wood was found, or the characteristic or feature of the individual piece."

Jeff announced that the October 5th First State Woodturners meeting will have a very special demonstrator, Alan Lacer. Alan has produced several DVD's and visited our club about three years ago showing us how to use the Skew. This demo, Alan will be showing us how to create small boxes and he will also be giving us a refresher on the skew chisel. Because we will have a full schedule, we will not be hosting our normal Show & Tell. Save up your pieces for the November meeting. Remember; bring a chair for the meeting.

Alan's website: <http://woodturninglearn.net/>

Reminder:

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.