



Shavings-Newsletter of the Quad Cities Woodturners Association

Quad City Wood
Turners

Volume 4, Issue 5
May 2009

The Fine Art of Critiquing Art



David Murray, an art professor at Black Hawk College in Moline, gave an extended critique of several pieces displayed at our April meeting. He also gave us many insights on how to become better woodturners and artists,. For more on his views of critique, see page 4.

Walking thru the Woods and seeing old friends



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Feature: Walk in the Woods!

2009 Calendar of Events

| | |
|------------|-----------------------|
| May 19 | Monthly Meeting |
| June 16 | Monthly Meeting |
| June 20-21 | Alain Mailland |
| June 26-28 | Albuquerque Symposium |
| July 21 | Monthly Meeting |
| August | PICNIC!!! |

Joe Meirhaeghe, Orion Woodturner

The featured turner this month is Joe Meirhaeghe who lives in the Orion area with his wife Linda. They have 2 daughters, one at Blackhawk College, the other daughter is married and she and her husband just presented Joe and Linda with their first grandson.

Joe grew up on a farm in the Woodhull area and became fascinated at age 12 with woodturning while watching a family friend making lamps. He continued turning at Alwood high school and received a lathe as a graduation present. He did spindle work primarily until he attended a demo at Builder's World and met Jerry Sergeant and Dave Johnson who invited him to the QCWT club meeting.



At the first meeting, Jerry and Steve had tall vessels on the critique table and he was really impressed with them. "I had never seen turned wooden vessels like them before and I had never turned anything other than spindles up to that point", Joe said. He vowed to learn to do that someday! Having no idea what tools he needed or how to do it, he talked to Jerry who showed him a few basics but said that Steve was the guy to talk to if he was really serious about learning the skill.

He talked to Steve who invited him to his studio and Joe said, "All I could say was WOW! I was like a kid in a candy store. He showed me so many things that I knew I couldn't remember them all so I asked him if I could come back. He said sure, and I have been spending about 2 days a week with Steve ever since." "He calls me his apprentice," Joe said.

Joe's commitment and efforts are very apparent when you look at his work.

He bought a Powermatic lathe.

Joe began cutting meat after high school beginning with the Randall chain and then with Eagles. Currently he is at the Milan HyVee store. He usually works weekends so his days off he spends with Steve.

His favorite wood is walnut and his favorite tools are the bowl gouge and the Rolly Munro hollowing tool. He still wants to become comfortable with the skew some day.

Beside an interest in motorcycles, Joe likes to garden. You can take the boy out the farm but you can't take the farm out of the boy.

When asked for advice, he said. "If you want to become good at woodturning make a commitment to practice, practice, practice, and most important of all is NEVER, EVER, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, MAKE THAT LAST CUT!"



There will be no real system of those chosen to appear in our newsletter but we hope to get everyone interviewed in the coming months and years. If anyone feels that they would like to write their own bio, **please** get it to Denny Hurd for publication. Warren Hadley, Author and Woodturner

President's Message



Due to my busy schedule—working and having fun, My message this month is summarized what happened at last month's meeting on April 21, 2009.

Guests and New Members: Count @ 64

Treasurers Report: Checking Acct: \$ 3,164.72

Reserved \$ 3600.00

Pop Fund: \$ 434.50 Total: \$ 7,199.22

The Items We Discussed:

April 26 Walk in the park with Roger Viager @ 1:00 p.m. @ BlackhawkPark in Rock Island. Rain date to be the following Sunday May 3. Eric Anderson a forestry consultant was at our meeting and will assist.

Steve Sinner's books 'Woodturning Masters' sell for \$ 20.00. Steve autographed the page that he is on.

Robin Frazier's "By Law's" changes were passed by the membership. Three of the important changes were add additional board members to be appointed by the president, staggering the dates of the start/end dates of the board members, and raising the amount that the board can spend at its discretion.

Gallery Hop on May 8 , Friday from 5:00 - 10:00pm. A table will be set up for club projects to be sold, members can set up their own table to sell their work, three lathes will be used for demos and the demonstrators need to be AAW members, bring snack foods and as always we need pop and water for donations.

Ron Curtis is now taking over the Library and will head a committee for our next phase of the purchase of video equipment! He is projecting 3 flat screens (36" or 42") to place on the front wall along with 3 cameras for demos.

Gene Vincent ..."Relay for Life" for the American Cancer Society is looking for pieces to be donated for live auction and a written auction. It will be a tax write off. See Gene for details if interested.

Auction done by: Dave Johnson Amount earned for the club: **\$ 215.00**

Critique: **David Murray "Professor of Art"** Blackhawk College.

Demo: Ron Curtis demonstrated "Corn Cob Picks"

“If you pursue excellence and follow your heart, you will produce art!”- David Murray

April Critique Table



Our April meeting featured David Murray as our “master of critique”. David is a art professor at Black Hawk College and has judged several shows and exhibits. He gave us a few pointers on the fine art of critiquing as well as specific pointers on some of the pieces brought to the meeting.

“When you are thinking of making something, think of making something beautiful”, David said in his comments on the subject of art, especially wooden art. “And the beauty may be where you don’t expect it. When I think of the beauty I find in wood, I think of a particular beam in a wooden outhouse from a family residence. Though that might strike you as strange, the tracks and paths created by the insects were so interesting, I kept the beam when I was later charged with reconstructing the outhouse and preserving it..”

“Invest in what you are interested in and it will show,” he continued and held up a duck call made of tulip wood by Leo Othmer as an example. “This goes beyond function and demonstrates the true interests and skill of the wood turner.”

Critique Table Cont'd

"Holding up one of Bill McQuitty's segmented bowls, he remarked , "How do you go beyond technique to beauty and true art? This is the way to do that. The obvious skill and work of this turner is evident to anyone who looks at it. Its beauty is striking, very striking indeed."

Another of David's comments was to "Either do something or don't do it. But if you do it, do it with visual authority and confidence." Another thing you can do is to ask yourself, "Where do I go from here? What's next?"

David strongly suggested you make your work for yourself. If you are passionately involved in your work, it will show. Don't just do it to get it done.

David was very interested in the piece below by Robin Fraser. "I am very interested in the form, but need to take some time with it to fully appreciate it", he said. One of his final comments was on Robin's piece made from Madagascar Ebony. "This is very, very good and something which definitely appeals to me.



Robin Fraser
Madagascar Ebony

"If you pursue excellence and follow your heart, you will produce art!" - David Murray



A Walk in the Woods Submitted by Donna Nagle

Mother Nature stopped the rain long enough on Sunday for a group of us to trek through the trails of Blackhawk State Park with Roger and Carol Viager.

The paths were muddy but that did stop us as we broke off into groups. Tom Paulsen, leading one group and Eric Anderson, a forester and friend of Roger's, leading the other group. Burls, tree identification and general plant information was the topic to help us understand where trees grow and why they won't grow. Roger led us to many small and several very large burls. They all showed us some very nice examples of curly grained wood, crotch wood, sprout burls, etc. Many visible examples from fallen trees and trees split totally in half, down the middle. Half still standing there and the other half laying on the ground.

With the assistance of Eric and Tom, Roger and Carol's walk was complimented nicely.



A Sunday Walk in the Woods



What a burl still on a tree looks like.

A few minutes rest during a fun afternoon.



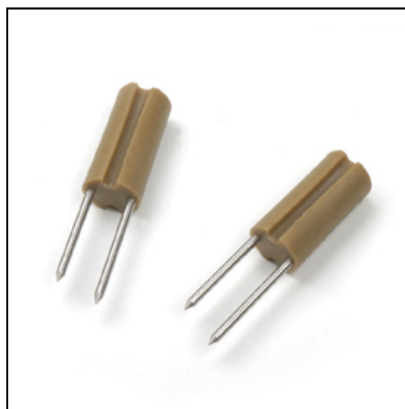
It was a Sunday afternoon well spent. What Roger knows does not come from books but from the College of Experience, plus never underestimate the knowledge of Carol! To those of you who missed this, perhaps we can journey through the woods again with Roger in the fall.

Sweet Corn Holder—Demo by Ron Curtis



To make corn cob holders, you will need a kit from Penn State which only runs \$10 for a pack of 10 sets. The Sets are nice because they store by nesting the tips of one holder into the end of the other. This keeps the ends sharp and away from your fingers when picking them up.

To get started, Ron mounted a block of hardwood that he had tapped for his lathe spindle. He created his by using a Beall lathe spindle tap available from companies like Woodcraft, Hartville Tool, or directly from the Beall Tool Company (<http://www.bealltool.com/products/turning/spindletap.php>). The Beall website also has two videos on using their spindle tap. On the block of hardwood, mount it on the headstock spindle and turn a 1/2" tenon to mount your blank on. Then drill a 1/2" hole in a blank of your choice. It should be about 3/4" deep. The blank only needs to be about 3/4" square unless you are planning on making larger holders, but you will need a matching pair to create the two holders. Drilling the hole may be done before mounting the blank on the lathe.



The corn cob holder kit from Penn State. Notice how they will interlock for storage.

Turning the blank into a finished product is really quite easy. All you need to do is create a design that you can duplicate on the next one so you will have a matching pair. You can use a roughing gouge to do the initial work, then move to a detail gouge for final work. The detail gouge can also be used instead of a parting tool or along with the parting tool for parting off after sanding and applying a finish. Ron used a quick drying finish so the pins can be glued in just after removing from the lathe.

The corn cob holder's as finished and ready for some tasty use!!

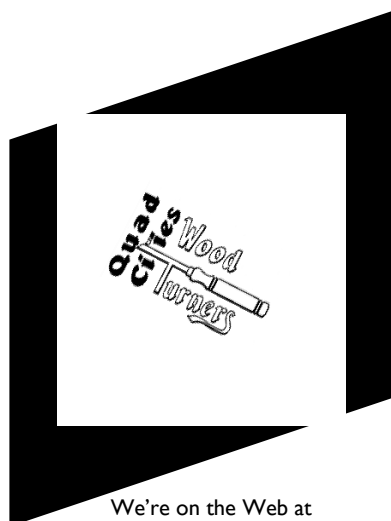


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We're on the Web at
www.qcwoodturners.org

Officers

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Chairperson: | Jerry Sergeant |
| Vice Chair/ Prog. Director: | Art Jackson |
| Secretary: | Anne Sinner |
| Treasurer: | Lloyd Beckman |

Directors

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Past Chair: | Jim Loula |
| Website: | Teresa Allen |
| Auction: | Dave Johnson |
| At Large | Mike Mosley |

Work Group Leaders

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Critiques: | Steve Sinner |
| Newsletter: | Dennis Hurd Bob Mattison |
| Presentations: | Jerry Johanson |
| Library | Ron Curtis |
| Fundraising | Dave Vandeenboom |
| Photography | Tom Paulsen |
| Club Demos | Art Jackson |

Upcoming Events

Alain Mailland will be presenting his unique style at all day demo on Saturday June 20. He will come back to the club on Sunday, June 21 for a hands on demo.



Relay for Life, sponsored by the **American Cancer Society**, is looking for contributions of woodturnings to offer for sale. The event will be held on **May 29, 2009** at Brady Street Stadium, Davenport. Contact Gary or Tracy Kimler at 355-8548, or e-mail at kimler@genesishealth.com

July Demo at the Clinton County Fair! Don't miss it!! July 18th— See Ray Myers for more info

May 2009

May club meeting

Tuesday, May 19, 6:30-9 pm
DeSoto Building,
Mentoring from 5-6 pm
Raffle, demo, regular meeting

June 2009

Club meeting

Alain Mailland Demo,
DeSoto Building
More details at club meeting

Printed on a Kyocer FS 3900DN printer

Courtesy of Business Systems, INC

107 West 76th St.

Davenport, IA 52806

563-445-1707