Take a Minute and Think About Safety

We all love woodturning because projects can typically be done very quickly. And as we all know, that means that things happen fast when we’re using a lathe. Bad things as well as good things. Recently I had a reminder that I should take a minute to think about safety before I do something that’s not so safe. Yes, it was a painful reminder. Yes, it left a mark that will become a scar.

Since I still get a little queasy when I recall how dangerous my behavior was, and how serious the injury could have been, I’ll keep the description of the incident simple. Let’s just say that while troubleshooting a disassembled dust collector I bumped the motor on and off and then without thinking I put my hand into the collector’s output and the impeller, which was still moving, smacked my finger and thumb VERY HARD. Hard enough to split the skin across my knuckles. Nothing broken or severed, but there was still a fair amount of blood flowing. I immediately knew how fortunate I was since the stupidity of my action far exceeded the seriousness of my injury.

I’m sure that most of us have scars that remind us of times when we’ve done something that was unsafe. Or at least not recommended. I now have a scar that reminds me that I should think before I put my hand somewhere there might be moving parts. And I’m very thankful that my unsafe actions didn’t have consequences that were any worse than that reminder.

So, let’s take a minute to think about safety when turning because turning can turn hazardous in a heartbeat. You often don’t have a chance to realize there’s an issue before bad things happen and an injury occurs. Before you turn the lathe on, check the belt position on the pulley (speed range). Before you flip that power switch, check that speed dial to confirm that it’s dialed down to start slow. Always check that your piece is secure, your centers are well seated, and your tailstock and banjo are securely locked in place. Use the tailstock as secure support whenever it’s possible. Manually verify that the piece will not contact the tool rest as it rotates. Always wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which includes, but is not limited to a face shield, hearing protection, and possibly a respirator. If you’re working indoors and turning or sanding dry wood, dust collection and ambient air filtration are highly recommended.

Without needing a scar as a reminder I’ll always remember one evening when I was going to turn a quick top before calling it a night. Moving quickly, I mounted a long square block of maple in a scroll chuck without bringing up the tailstock. When I started rough turning without putting on my face shield, the block came off the lathe and the corner of the block split my forehead open. I’ll never forget the embarrassment of having to hold my hand over the bleeding gash while I passed my wife in her recliner on the way upstairs to the first aid supplies (Maybe I should have some in the shop?). Thank goodness that hazardous move didn’t leave a scar that would serve as a nagging reminder of what could have easily been prevented with a few seconds of thought about safety.

Y’all keep it SAFE out there!

Kim Muthersbough
Respect the Spindle and Vessel

Our October demonstrator will be Robert Lyon. His demo and PowerPoint presentation, we will explore how design can affect the vessels and spindles we make, and how you can apply some of its principles to your turnings. He will discuss a little of the history of turning, and you will see how nature and culture has inspired some of your favorite turners. He will show you how I prepare my pencil pieces for turning and demonstrate and discuss the hollowing process.

You can see Robert’s work on his website: www.robertflyon.com

September GAW Meeting—Looking Back

Hans Weissflog will be our demonstrator at the September GAW meeting. As a warm-up for the Turning Southern Style symposium Hans will be at this month’s GAW demonstrating his pierced pattern! While any Google search can find his work, Hans can be followed on face-book.

2020 Demonstrators

During 2020, Steve Mellott will be scheduling woodturning demonstrators for the Georgia Association of Woodturners. He has begun to compile a list of potential demonstrators, but it would be helpful to know if there is anyone in particular you would like to see. While he cannot guarantee anything, he can at least explore those demonstrators as possibilities.

Also, are there any topics you would like to see us schedule? Send feedback to: srmellott@hotmail.com or see Steve at a GAW meeting.
Turning Southern Style Wrap-Up

Thank you so much for all the hard work put into the symposium. I want to especially thank Steve Pritchard & Linda Britt, Jeff Barnes, & Tony Raffalovich for their hard work and stepping up to allow me to deal with a difficult family emergency during the symposium. The team will be reviewing the critiques to see if we need to make improvements for next year. Speaking of next year, we are excited to be featuring Michael Hosaluk, John Beaver, and Johannes Michelsen as demonstrators next year in Dalton. I invite all club members to take a few minutes to answer a 3 question survey about next year's symposium special interest night. This will give the team direction in our planning: TSS Survey.

If you'd like to be involved in the symposium, we could use a few more people. Steve & Linda have done an amazing job, but wish to step down. People hesitate to be involved in the club because they don't have to get sucked into doing something forever, but how can we reverse that fear if we don't both (1) get more people involved and (2) let people step down when they feel they have finished a job? I have really enjoyed getting involved with the club as the symposium chair. Even though I never organized such a big event before, I had skills that allowed me to be trained to run the event. I have found it a way to use my gifts and talents to serve in a community I enjoy being a part of. You don't have to be Steve or Linda to step into those shoes. We have a great team to help you and an operations manual to guide you. If you have good computer skills we can help you step into Steve's role. If you have secretarial or office manager skills, we can help you step into Linda's. But the sooner we get new people on board, the better the transition will go, and the easier it will be for YOU! Please consider serving your club in this capacity.

Elisabeth Ross

Check out our 202 demonstrators on their web sites:

Michael Hosaluk
John Beaver
Johannes Michelsen
Volunteer for Hands-on Marketing Opportunity

AAW embarked on an exciting new marketing venture with Rockler Woodworking and Hardware earlier in 2019. This endeavor offers AAW and its chapters an opportunity to publicize the value of membership to previously untapped audiences.

As part of this marketing venture AAW is working with Rockler to plan a local Pen Turning event and they are excited to offer an opportunity for chapter involvement. The event will include pen turning hands-on classes in both of our Atlanta area Rockler stores on Saturday, November 9, 2019. Classes will be held at 9:30 am, 11:30 am, 1:30 pm and 3:30 pm.

AAW has invited our chapter to provide some assistants for some hands-on pen turning classes. This event will be an excellent opportunity for our representatives to talk about woodturning, our chapter, and AAW membership. We’re requesting at least a two hour commitment, between the hours of 9 am and 5 pm, starting at 9am, 11am, 1pm, or 3pm. We can use some pen turning instructors and also some general talking head marketing chapter representatives. If you are interested in volunteering, there will be a sign-up sheet passed around at the September and October meetings, or you can contact Kim Muthersbough at pres@gawoodturner.org and let him know your volunteer preference - what store (Sandy Springs or Kennesaw), whether or not you’d like to be a pen turning instructor or a marketing chapter representative, and your requested time. There is a need for 3-4 folks to cover each store, similar to what was done last year. More details:

Hands-on Classes: New turners will be able to make slim line pens using carbide tools. Rockler will provide: - Lathe, kits, and accessories

Chapters provide: - Teaching assistants - Chapter information/brochures

This is the second year Rockler has held this event. Turning participants are charged $10 fee and proceeds being donated to National Veterans Foundation. Last year just under 550 participated across the locations in the Rockler organization.

Thanks for pitching in!
Georgia National Fair

The Georgia National Fair is winding down. We have some unofficial woodturning results thanks to Wes Jones acting as a docent and investigative reporter. The following GAW members have participated and been honored at the woodturning exhibit. Official results will be available next month, but take a moment to “unofficially” congratulate:

Wes Jones
Leigh Brookes
Steve Mellott
Eugene Hertzler
Kevin Wood

We hope to have award details in next month’s issue.
September Instant Gallery

Harvey Meyer

Basket Illusion
Bradford Pear

Acoma Basket Illusion Pot
Maple

Bill Lynch

Beads of Courage Box
Catalpa, Babinga
Fornby’s Finishing Oil
September Instant Gallery (2)

Randy Willis

Beads of Courage Boxes
Mixed woods
Bees Wax finish

Tim Robertson

Utility Bowl
Osage Orange
Mylands Friction Polish
Wood Safety

Following is a link to a Fine Woodworking chart (with information drawn from several professional organizations) that lists woods that are known to cause respiratory problems and/or allergic reactions:
http://www.finewoodworking.com/1977/12/01/toxic-woods

AAW also has information on wood toxicity: http://www.woodturner.org/default.asp?page=toxicity


Always protect yourself from wood dust, especially when sanding—just because a wood doesn’t appear on the list doesn’t mean its dust should be breathed!
### Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep 18, 2019</td>
<td>Hans Wiesflog</td>
<td>Hands-on Workshop</td>
<td>Woodcraft</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 19, 2019</td>
<td>Hans Wiesflog</td>
<td>GAW Monthly Meeting</td>
<td>Ga Tech Digital Fabrication Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 20-22, 2019</td>
<td><strong>Turning Southern Style Symposium</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dalton Convention Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 17, 2019</td>
<td>Robert Lyon</td>
<td>GAW Monthly Meeting</td>
<td>Ga Tech Digital Fabrication Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 9, 2019</td>
<td>AAW/Rockler Pen-Turning Outreach</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rockler stores</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 21, 2019</td>
<td>Dennis Paullus</td>
<td>GAW Monthly Meeting</td>
<td>Ga Tech Digital Fabrication Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 19, 2019</td>
<td><strong>Holiday Party</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ga Tech Digital Fabrication Lab</td>
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<td>Mar 13-15, 2020</td>
<td><strong>American Craft Council Show</strong></td>
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<td>Cobb Galleria Centre</td>
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<td>May 30,31, 2020</td>
<td><strong>South East Pen Gathering</strong></td>
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<td>Augusta, GA</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 4-7, 2020</td>
<td><strong>AAW Symposium</strong></td>
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<td>Louisville, KY</td>
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### GAW Officers and Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name, Position</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
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</tr>
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</table>
Woodturning Instruction

The following GAW club members give private woodturning instruction in their own shops. Contact them for more information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Sugar Hill</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Woodturning Schools in the Southeast

The following schools in the Southeast offer classes in woodturning, as well as other arts and crafts. Check out their websites to see the scheduled course offerings.

- John C. Campbell Folk School
- Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts
- Highland Woodworking
- Appalachian Center for Craft
- Woodcraft of Atlanta

DVD and Video Tape Library

The Georgia Association of Woodturners (GAW) has instructional VHS and DVD videos available for rental before each GAW meeting. A partial listing of the videos is on the GAW website here. Only members may rent tapes and DVDs. Rentals are $2.00 per month. Rentals are limited to 2 tapes or DVDs and the items must be returned the following month. Late fees of $2.00 per month will be assessed for each item not returned on time.

Editor’s Note

Newsletter Content - Please let me know if you have any comments or suggestions for the Newsletter. Each month I look for some little additional content for the newsletter I welcome your shop notes, safety tips, links to interesting woodturning websites, items for sale or exchange, etc. And if you see something humorous that has a woodturning or woodworking connection, pass it along. You can reach me via email (editor@gawoodturner.org, at the monthly meetings, or by phone (770-872-0910).
GAW Club members can get 15% discount on website wood purchases from North Woods. Use coupon code “WOODTURNERS” at checkout.

Closing

The opinions expressed in this monthly newsletter of the Georgia Association of Woodturners, do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, Officers, or the GAW. Woodturning Schools and Instructors listed in this Newsletter are not recommended or endorsed by the GAW, but are made available to the GAW members and others as a convenience only. Your GAW questions, comments and suggestions are always welcome.
Date: ________________________________

Turner’s Name: ________________________________

Piece Name: ________________________________

Wood Species: ________________________________

Finish: ________________________________

Any notes of interest, e.g. where you got the wood, any lesson learned in doing the project, etc.: ________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________