

Apple Valley Woodturners

Pen Turning: The Write Way

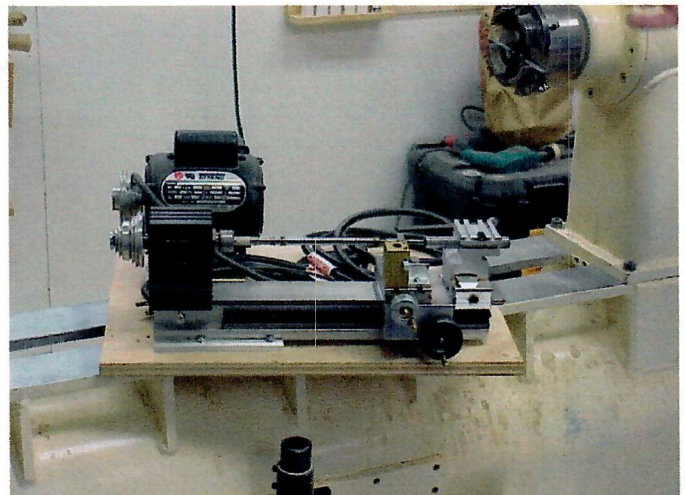
A newcomer to woodturning stepped up to a lathe at our April meeting and turned her first pen after meber Mike McInerney finished his demonstration for the Apple Valley Woodturners.

McInerney, of Centreville, is also a member and treasurer for the Capital Area Woodturners. His demonstration focused on a useful article, pens. McInerney took the members from selecting woods for pens, suppliers (Berea Hardwoods, is the company he prefers) and best sale outlets as well as how to actually turn pens. He discussed the items which marketed best in his experience too.

Because he works a full time job and has a large side business in specialty pens, McInerney has gone to an Towang Automatic Pen Lathe, on which he can produce 100 pens in an afternoon. However, he did his demonstration on a conventional lathe, using hand tools. Pen blanks are readily available from wood craft suppliers, in a variety of woods. McInerney has some words of caution about drilling the blanks. He noted that the drill bit should be withdrawn frequently to clean the flutes, to avoid overheating the wood and causing it to fracture.



Putting the finishing touches on a pen, Mike McInerney shared his experiences with marketing as well as making these gift items.



When installing the brass tube , he prefers to use an epoxy glue, instead of a cyanoacrylate (CA) glue. He feels the epoxy is more gap filling, than the CA glue.

He trims the glued up blank on a small disc sander to finish size.

McInerney discussed the various finishes you can use on the pens, including friction polishes and pen polishes.

He said he has some repeat customers who prefer a particular size pen.

Thicker ones seem to sell better than slim-line pens , he said . Slim-line pens have a cross refill, while the thicker ones use a roller ball refill for the most part. The roller ball is a higher quality refill, McInerney said.

Pencil mechanisms leave something to be desired, he said, because of alignment problems.

In addition to pens for writing, he also sells perfume pens , atomizers, and key rings. He also sells pen boxes, but these are provided as an addition to the pens, not as a set, so he actually makes two sales.

He markets his work at shows, craft fairs and to companies which are looking employee and client gifts around Christmas time.

Show and Tell

The show and tell finally got off the ground quite successfully.

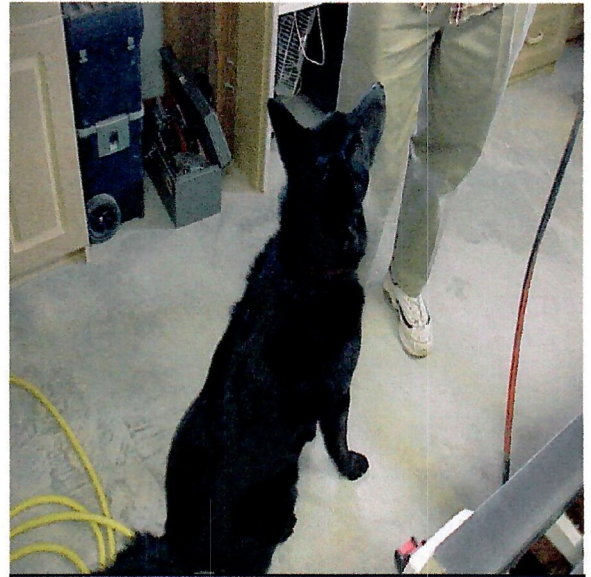
Among the items where some very nice hollow turnings, and an unusual egg with foot attached .





What is Dave Pye really doing
with those raffle tickets

ering



Our newest member Sasha
Is all ears at Mike McInerney's
demonstration



Which way is the money
really going ?

Amidst suspicions of raffle ticket
racketeering, ticket palming and payoffs,
the editor feels that an internal affairs
division is now necessary.
Until this can be implemented an
independent counsel should be hired.
If this proves to be beyond our means
maybe the Mtn. Falls Friday Night Bingo
club will do.

Note from the editor

Please excuse the newsletter's format this month, we are having computer problems. I think there maybe wood shavings in my keyboard. Be patient, I'm sure it will get worse.

From the woodchuck

Great demonstration Mike! Mike fielded a lot of questions, and answered them all. We had four individuals turn a pen who had never do before..One young lady had never touched a lathe before. We still have some pen sets left over. So come early to the next meeting and turn a pen. I will have all the blanks ready.

Don't forget skill enhancement starts at 8:30-9:00. So if you need help with something don't be afraid to ask.

Raffle

3/8" side grind bowl gouge

2 ea. 15% discount certificates from Craft Supply

1ea. 15 % discount certificate from the Cutting Edge

Name tags

Name tags should be worn so you don't forget who you are.

Video Library

We have received three tapes from the AAW in addition to the tapes Ken Darr donated, so take advantage of what the masters can teach you.

Our supporters

McFarland,s Saw Mill

587 Round Hill Rd.

Winchester Va.

667-2272

Jet, Powermatic dealer

The Cutting Edge

7123 Southwest Fwy

Houston, Texas 77074

800-790-7980

Craft SupplyUSA

1287 E. 1120 S.

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