

# UTAH WOODCHIPS



## Message from the President

February - 2007

We met at Craft Supplies on January 2nd where we were privileged to have Mike Mahoney demonstrate a small hollow form and platter for us. He also shared a lot of knowledge about handling green wood. There is much more inside. Thanks Mike.

On February 5th we will meet at Ben Lomond High in Ogden where Mike Hyer will demonstrate. I believe he is planning on some discussion on tree structure and providing some tips on using the McNaughton system as well. If you have had opportunity to see some of his work you know that it will be time well spent.

This last third Thursday we spent on spindle turning. Joe Wagner was kind enough to show us a myriad of ways to use different tools to achieve the same results. Attendees had opportunity to try out the different tools and receive a little assistance with technique. As always Joe, thank you. For the third Thursday in February I am thinking about discussing and demoing different types of chucking from jam chucks to vacuum chucks. Maybe we can make a set of nylon jaws as well.

Coming up in March Jim McBride will be demonstrating a lidded box at MacBeaths and Lynn Jacobson will be demonstrating segmented work at Timberline in April. We will try to follow up each of these demonstrations with some hands on during the third Thursday's that follow.

This is the time of year to sign up with the American Association of Woodturners if you desire. The Utah Association of Woodturners is a chapter of the AAW and supporting them supports us as well. I have enjoyed being a member and you can get more information at their web site <http://www.woodturner.org> or there will be forms available at the next meeting. Also the symposium, scheduled for June 21-23, 2007 is fast approaching. Watch for more information as this event always sells out fast. The web site, <http://utahwoodturning.com> states more information will be available after January 25th.

Remember to do the turners' challenge each month. It's a great way to practice what we learn in the demonstrations and hone our skills. The best one (judged by me) will receive a \$15.00 gift certificate from Craft Supplies USA. Any current member can enter.

*-Dave Best*

## Regular Monthly Meeting (first Tuesday)

Feb 6th - Ben Lomond High

800 Jackson Avenue

Ogden, Utah

Mar 6th - MacBeath Hardwood

1576 S 300 W - SLC

Apr 3rd - Timberline

1402 W. Center - Orem



Now accepting orders for the Utah  
Woodturners Symposium 2006 CD

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CD is still available

We also have CD's back to 1999

The CD is **compatible** with PC and Mac

Cost \$35.00 each and includes shipping

If you would like to buy a CD at the  
club meeting, they are available for  
\$30.00 by saving shipping costs

## Mike Mahoney—

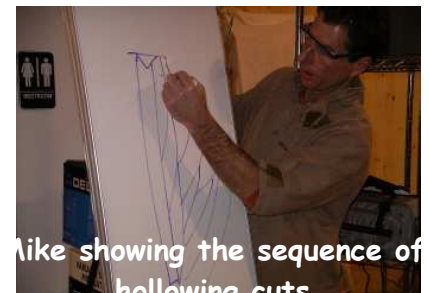
Mike introduced himself, gave the group some background on his career, and announced he would demonstrate a small hollow form and platter. He encouraged folks to ask questions, and made sure this would be very informal. Mike made lots of these small hollow forms to get through College, and sold them for about \$30 retail then. Now they sell for about \$60. wholesale or around \$110 retail. Mike showed his steel-handled double-ended hollowing tool and told us he preferred wood or aluminum handles, but his steel one will not wear out! He mounted his small form Masur birch blank on a screw chuck but warned us we should use a spur drive on end grain. He used a long wing bowl gouge to rough the form and make the spigot or tenon to fit his chuck. Mike recommends that we use 40% of maximum diameters as a guideline for tenon size. Mike advised that while larger items can be of plain wood, smaller items need to make up for small size with a better piece of wood. Mike emphasized making sure that the spigot has a solid flat to bear against on the chuck face. Mike also uses the tail stock for safety but also to leave a center mark for roughed items which will be rechunked later. Make sure that the piece is secure. Mike develops his outside shape with a 3/8 spindle gouge making sure that the flowing lines of his shape will go through the foot. His Gouge is ground at 35% bevel, with a sweep of approximately 35 degrees. Mike shear scrapes the large diameter, but not the small diameter so as not to risk a catch. He used a center drill to depth at slow speed. He set wall thickness of the opening, and started hollowing using a series of 9 cuts. Mike used a soda straw to blow out the sawdust. Final cuts were very fine to blend in all cuts into a continuous curve. Mike sanded with 180, 320, up to 600 grit. He sands at half the turning speed and reverses direction of the lathe between grits. Mike made a mandrel that fit the opening and then turned the vessel around to turn bottom, placing a folded paper towel over the mandrel for a friction fit. The finished base will be slightly smaller than the opening. After the cuts are made, he sands the piece. Mike does not apply any finish on the lathe, and would finish off the lathe with lacquer. In his shop undisturbed he can make one of these in about 15 minutes! His tool work is amazing!

Platter- Mike rough turns his platters and allows the roughed blank to dry. This project is a silver maple crotch that had been drying for one year! He uses a screw chuck and brings up the tailstock. Mike demonstrated using scraping cuts to develop the shape. He told us that the base of a utility platter should be 50 to 70% of the diameter. He established the diameter of the recess with dividers and cut the recess with a small spindle gouge with a swept back cut. He had some tear out in the crotch wood area and used a traditional ground tool fresh from the grinder for a clean cut on the crotch grain. To refine the outside shape, Mike used a shear scrape which he called "the poor man's cut" and followed with a push cut to eliminate torn grain. His final cut in this case, was a shear scrape with a fresh edge as a compromise due to the difficulty of the grain in this crotch. You can also use some oil to lubricate the cut, as long as that will be your final finish. He finished the bottom completely including sanding. He turned the platter around put the recess on the dovetail jaws and brought up the tailstock. He refined the shape of the rim and tapered the shape so it was not flat. He then developed the next few inches and got a finish cut on that area before removing the bulk in the center. He continued to work down the profile, blending each area to the previous one. After some minor sanding, he passed around the finished product, and it is easy to see why he is so successful as a Turner. His tool work is just fantastic, and we were all envious of his tremendous final products!

Mike answered everyone's questions and encouraged us to all make our own plates, platters aid bowls and use them every day in our kitchens.

Fantastic job Mike, thanks again!

A great crowd gathered  
at Craft Supplies





Hollowing out in 9 steps



Finished Hollow Form



Platter blank mounted, Mike develops shape of back



Base is established, dovetail is cut ready to turn around



Sanding...

Back must be completely finished now



Turned around and cutting the front



Pull cut establishing final profile



Amazing quality right off the freshly sharpened tool



Finished Platter from Silver Maple Crotch



A small sample of some of Mike's amazing work!

### Utah Woodchips

the official newsletter of the Utah Association of Woodturners

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Be sure to look at our club shirts, hats and videos on our Club Website:

[utahwoodturners.org](http://utahwoodturners.org)

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**utahwoodturners.org**

**Utah Association of Woodturners**

The Utah Association of Woodturners was formed in 1988 and is a local chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

**Meetings** - first Tuesday of each month at various shops or wood stores that support our club

Refreshments 6:30

Meeting 7:00 - 8:45 pm

You are invited to attend and become a part of the group. For more information contact any club officer.

Dues begin July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year:

\$25.00 full year

\$20.00 three quarters

\$15.00 half year

\$10.00 last quarter

Spouse \$10.00

**Training Meeting**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday—7 pm**

Woodcraft Supplies  
9891 S. 500 W.  
Salt Lake City

**Tip of the month**

If you are experiencing tear out on a cut, Mike Mahoney suggests you use a lubricant such as oil (if that's your final finish) to get a better cut!

**Turners Challenge**

**Jan (for Feb. meeting)**

Rolling pin

**Feb (for Mar. meeting)**

Large salad bowl

**Mar (for Apr. meeting)**

Bird house

**Directions to get to Ben Lomond High School in Ogden Utah:**

Going north on I-15. Take the 12<sup>th</sup> St. Exit # 344. Turn left onto 12<sup>th</sup> Street (heading East). Go 3.1 miles, turn left onto Monroe Blvd. Go 0.3 miles, turn right onto 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Go 0.1 mile. Ben Lomond is on your left.

Going south on I-15. Take the 12<sup>th</sup> Street Exit #344. Turn right onto 12<sup>th</sup> Street (heading East). See above directions.

**January Challenge, Decorative Bowl**

