

# UTAH WOODCHIPS



## Message from the President

February 2009

Well 2009 is underway. I expect it will be a good year for the club. Lane Philips provided a great demonstration for us at Craft Supplies. This was the first time I have seen Lane demonstrate and I was amazed by his knowledge and talent. Be sure to check out the details of his demo below.

Coming up on February 3rd Paul Chilton will demonstrate a platter for us at MacBeath Hardwood. You will notice that this is the challenge for the following month. It wasn't accidental so I hope to see you there. Paul is a professional turner, demonstrator and instructor. I know it will be worth your effort to come.

I realize that it is only January but plans for the Symposium are under way. It will be held at UVU on May 14-16 and is destined to be a large event as the 30th annual Utah Woodturning Symposium. (Longest running in the world by the way.) We need a lot of help running cameras and taking digital still pictures for the demonstrations. I would like to get enough help so we provide you with several sessions of free time. Your admission would be free, so if this is something you can assist with please let me know I want to get started on the schedule right away and I also need to get you registered as a camera operator.

We are scheduled for our "new" quarterly training meeting at MacBeath Hardwood on the third Thursday in March. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Again I hope you consider joining the American Association of Woodturners. It is a worthwhile organization with many member benefits. See <http://www.woodturner.org>

Remember to do the turners' challenge each month. Not only are the challenges a great way to practice what we learn in the demonstrations and hone our skills, they are a great way for me to see how you are doing on your turning as I am ever looking for new people to demonstrate. ;-). The best few (judged by me) will receive a \$10.00 gift certificate from Craft Supplies, USA. Any current member can enter.

*—Dave Best*

## Regular Monthly Meeting (first Tuesday)

Feb 3rd - Macbeath Hardwood

1576 S 300 W - SLC

Mar 3rd - TBA

Apr 7th - TBA



Lane Phillips—demos ring making

**NOW AVAILABLE:** The 2008 Utah Woodturners Symposium DVD

**2007 Utah Woodturners Symposium DVD or 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 DVD or CD at the club meeting, they are available for \$30.00 by saving shipping costs

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### Lane Phillips — Rings

Lane Phillips is a local full time turner who is very experienced. His skills range over a wide variety of techniques. Tonight he will show us some of the many uses of cut rings. Lane started cutting rings in an effort to save some of the portion of a blank that would normally have ended up as chips on the floor. Although he does do light rings on dark wood, Lane feels that dark wood rings on lighter woods look best. Since the ring is cut from wood which will move, you have a couple of choices: to make the ring small so it will flex into position, or large enough to cut away the out of round waste after it dries and moves. Since this was started to avoid wasting wood, Lane opts for small rings. To show us what he does, Lane mounted a small bowl blank of purpleheart between centers. He rouged it round, and then used a parting tool to make a cut into the tailstock face of the blank. This cut is made outside the chuck registration flat where the chucks face will mate when he cuts the chuck tenon. He puts a dovetail slope on the outside of the blank with a skew on its side (the original negative rake scraper) and then parts in from the outside to meet the parting cut.

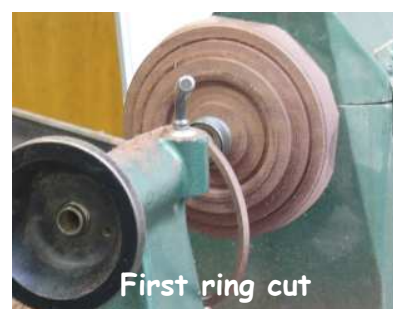
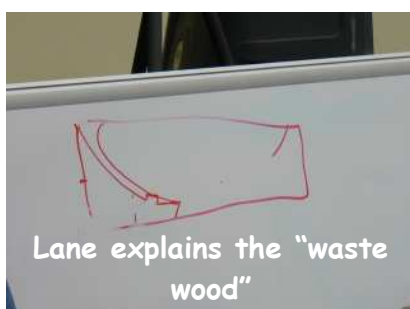
Lane sharpened often to get the cleanest possible surfaces. He cut away the single ring and passed it around. He then showed us how to cut multiple rings. Lane cautioned us to check for cracks, and if in doubt stabilize with super glue. Shortly thereafter one of his rings flew apart to illustrate his point. After cutting multiple rings from the blank, lane completed the rough bowl shape to show he only used the waste wood. Lane indicated that Rosewoods do not work well for rings because the finish does not look right after the ring is incorporated into another piece.

Lane did an article for Better Homes & Gardens Wood Magazine and as part of that demo, he cut more than 40 rings from the waste on a block of coco bolo. Lane likes to incorporate rings into his pieces for many reasons. One obvious reason is to add character and decorative interest. Another benefit is that adding a ring will help avoid or stop splitting in a piece. Lane often adds a ring to enlarge and or strengthen an edge. Rings can strengthen a fragile edge more than you might think. Lane uses rings in bowls, hollow forms and platters and uses them to stop cracks, make openings in hollow forms smaller, and to add a piece to perform a specific function, such as accept threads.

Recently, Lane is turning lots of spalted aspen that is very, very soft, and he brought a piece to show tonight. He made a waste block to fit up to the aspen blank. He super glued it onto the blank with glue on one surface and accelerator on the other. He cautioned us to use slow RPM to avoid the soft punky wood flying off. He encourages using sharp tools and to cut when you can, scrape when you must. Lane rouged out the soft blank with a sharp bowl gouge and then picked a ring of appropriate size from his inventory. Lane talked a bit about grain alignment. Although you may be tempted to put grain offset, Lane thinks it looks better if the grain of the ring is aligned with the grain of the piece. He began by cutting a rebate for the ring, perfecting the surface with a soft shear scrape. Lane uses a shop made scraper made from a planer blade or a specially cut scraper. Since this ring was to "bridge a gap" where there is wood missing, Lane told us to be sure to sand the back of the ring where it will show. When the fit was right, he applied CA glue and then put flat board on the piece using the tailstock as a clamp to hold it. Lane said this is the best method to hold it flat. Lane told us that he uses Elmer's glue or Tite Bond II at home, because he will later soak them in Danish oil finish and it discolors the wood less than CA. After affixing the ring, he began to create the shape of the base using a fingernail ground bowl gouge. He did a finish cut with a small spindle gouge fresh off the grinder. He explained that you may have to try multiple types of cuts and techniques to get a good surface. In this case he used a shear scrape on an Irish or Ellsworth ground bowl gouge, making a very light multiple cuts. He also put a fresh burr on a large scraper ground in a skew shape and made more very light shear scrape cuts. When he was happy with the surface, he began sanding. Lane likes sanding pads where you adhere sand paper to disk with spray adhesive. He put 80 grit on his pad and used it for "finish sculpting" the wood. He then sanded through the grits.

At home Lane would dunk the piece into boiled linseed oil and then re-cut to get clean cut. He would then cut the inside, dunk it again, and then make a cut clean on the inside. He would then submerge it in the oil for several days, and then wet sand using oil as lubricant. For tonight he just moved on to cut the center with a sharp bowl gouge. Lane showed us a special tool he has ground that allows cutting down the side, then rotating the tool to expose a different bevel to cut across the bottom. He used a skew on its side to be sure that the inside of the ebony ring was cut smooth and then used that as a "base" or starting point for the inside cuts with a sharp spindle gouge. Then he switched to a bowl gouge. Lane explained bevels, bevel length and grinding tools with short front bevel and removing the "heel" to shorten the bevel. It is clear Lane really understands what he is doing! It was great to learn how rings are valuable for a decoration and structure! Nice job Lane!!

...Article by Jay Brown





Cutting multiple rings



Turning the blank into a bowl



Lane's hand-make specialty tool



The ring being glued on blank



Showing the unstable wood, the ring holds it together



Sanding the soft wood



Ring on finished bowl



Ring on finished hollow-form



Samples of Lane's rings



The ring did it's job of holding the soft wood together

### 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)

## For a better finish, Powder Coat your pen tubes!

By Don Kleinschnitz

### The Problem

On some pen mechanisms the finished thickness of the turned blank is a mere .050. When the transparent acrylic blank is turned this thin the brass tube and associated glue easily shows through the acrylic. When the brass and glue are visible I think it denigrates the beauty of the acrylic material and the pen turner's craftsmanship.



Figure 1: Note the ugly pattern in the transparent areas

### Solutions

An expected solution would be to simply paint the tube before gluing it into the blank. Been there done that -- doesn't work and it takes a lot of time.

Paint the tubes. Holding and painting tubes is problematic. Runs are themselves ugly and they can actually make the tube to thick to insert in the tube. CA acts like a solvent with all the paints I have tried, leaving an ugly splotchy finish that you can see through the translucent acrylic. The tube--acrylic bond is weakened at the CA-paint interface.

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#### 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



#### Turners Challenge

#### Turners Challenge

Jan (for Feb meeting)

Hollowform

Feb (for Mar meeting)

Platter

Mar (for Apr meeting)

Turned Toys



#### Training Meeting

Third Thursday in March at

MacBeath Hardwood

#### For Sale or Trade

Rough turned bowls, platters, etc. Call Kirk DeHeer

Check these websites out

<http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com>

<http://www.timberlinetools.com>

<http://www.macbeath.com>

<http://www.woodcraft.com>

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### Buy colored tubes

Tubes with alternate plating can be purchased but the color and tube size options are limited. I didn't find anyone who sells colored tubes. Buying alternate tubes also increases the per-pen cost of the project.

These two methods didn't meet my needs I set out to find a better, easier and more reliable method.

### Powder Coating

Researching the web drew me to "powder coating" technology. A few pen turners were using powder coating systems to paint the exterior of hand turned metal pens. I thought, "why not powder coat the tubes". Powder coating creates a smooth, thin tough bond on most metals.

Definition from Wikipedia:

"Powder coating is a type of dry coating, which is applied as a free-flowing, dry powder. The main difference between a conventional liquid paint and a powder coating is that the powder coating does not require a solvent to keep the binder and filler parts in a liquid suspension form. The coating is typically applied electro statically and is then cured under heat to allow it to flow and form a "skin."

## Equipment

The next task was to find a source of equipment that would fit my budget. Two sources were found:

Eastwood @\$99@:<http://www.eastwoodco.com/shopping/product/detailmain.jsp?itemID=412&itemType=PRODUCT&iMainCat=459&iSubCat=460&iProductID=412>)

HARBOR FREIGHT @: \$69 ([HTTP://WWW.HARBORFREIGHT.COM/CPI/CTAF/DISPLAYITEM.TAF?ITEMNUMBER=94244](http://www.harborfreight.com/cpi/ctaf/displayitem.taf?itemnumber=94244))

THE EASTWOOD SYSTEM WAS MOST HIGHLY RECOMMENDED SO I BOUGHT THE MORE EXPENSIVE EASTWOOD "HOTCOAT" MODEL. BY FAR EASTWOOD HAD THE BEST POWDER COLOR SELECTION.



Figure 2: The 'Hotcoat" gun and tube tray

## The tube tray

There are some special requirements for holding the tubes during powder coating. The tube must be held rigid and have good electrical contact with the power supply. The tube mount must also disallow any powder from contaminating the inside of the tube; otherwise it may be difficult to press in the pen parts. The tray must also be compatible with multiple length and diameter tubes.

My tube tray is made from a piece of angle iron with 1/4-20 threaded holes distributed horizontally. I use 1/4-20 bolts, washers and nuts assembled in various combination's to clamp the tubes to the tray. The tube tray must be conductive so that the power supply can be connected to it.

### Toaster Oven

A toaster oven that will preheat in bake mode and adjust to 450 degrees is needed. I picked one up for under \$40 at Walmart. Make sure it has a timer.

What color?

I expected that I would have to paint the tube to match the color of the blank. Turns out that "white" works the best on most any color as the background. I paint all of my tubes in batches making the use of colored tubes more practical.

### How to Powder Coat

There are some great instructional resources on the Eastwood.com site but here are the basics:

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees.

Steel wool, wipe and blow clean the tubes before mounting to the tray. The tubes must be free of oil etc. Connect the power supply to the tray.

Load the gun with powder and attach the regulator and compressor. Note: the gun runs at very low pressure (8psi). I recommend getting the moisture separator that Eastwood sells to keep water out of the gun.

Coat the tubes. This is a simple matter of puffing the powder cloud around the tubes. The electrostatic charge on the tray causes the powder to coat the tube perfectly. Make sure there is plenty of powder and don't worry if the surface is not smooth, it will look sandy in texture.



Put the tubes in the oven and when the paint flows change the temperature to 400 degrees for 20 minutes. The paint will turn shiny wet.



Turn off the oven and let the tubes cool. As soon as they are cool you can glue them into the blanks. The coating should be 2-3 mills thick and very hard and shiny.



## Summary

The use of powder coating to make the brass tubes invisible in translucent acrylic pens adds a degree of finesse to your pens that your customers will appreciate. Your investment is well placed because powder coating can also be used to finish and protect other metal objects around the shop, i.e. your tools.



Figure 3: The tooling & painted tubes

Dear Utah Association of Woodturners,

January 2009 AAW Board Letter

Happy New Year from Board Member Malcolm Tibbetts.

How quickly a year flies by. With the passing of '08, your AAW board looks to the future with the same economic concerns that everyone seems to have. These are scary times for sure, but we are very fortunate to have a strong association, filled with very dedicated and passionate members. Our future remains rock-solid; we don't need a "bail-out."

With the New Year, there are many changes. We say goodbye and extend a big thank you to out-going board members Corey Anderson, Al Hockenbery, and our past president Angelo Iafrate (it's not really a goodbye, for I'm sure they will all continue to contribute to the AAW mission). And we welcome newly elected and very qualified board members, Dale Larson, Binh Pho, and Cassandra Speier. In addition, Betty Scarpino has taken over the editorial duties of our journal and this will be Mary Lacer's first full year as our executive director. Board member, Bill Haskell has "stepped up to the plate" and by unanimous board vote, taken the reigns of our association presidency; we are in very good hands. We're going through almost as much transition as Washington, but without nearly as much controversy. The future looks very bright indeed.

In February, the board will be visiting the Albuquerque facilities. The '09 symposium is shaping up to be another "not to be missed" event. Hotel rooms are already starting to fill up, so don't delay in making your plans. Even if you can't make it to Albuquerque, you can still participate; consider submitting an entry into the "Spirit of the Southwest" exhibition. The submission deadline is right around the corner on February 7th, so get busy.

For more information about this exhibition, visit our website. [www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org)

Speaking of submissions, how about contributing a good story for the 25th anniversary book that is being created? This is going to be a fantastic publication, to be published prior to our 25th symposium in 2012. John Kelsey has been hired to oversee this project and he would love to receive short stories or essays from AAW members. Tell a funny story or recognize someone who has made a difference and try to include a photo or two. Send your best stuff to John at [editorkelsey@gmail.com](mailto:editorkelsey@gmail.com) .

By the time that you read this, the annual EOG (Educational Opportunity Grant) submission deadline of January 15th will probably have passed. As chairman of the EOG committee, I'm very proud of this aspect of our organization. Each year, the EOG committee has the responsibility of selecting grant recipients and it's never an easy job. I wish we could approve all applications, but we do not have unlimited funds available – best of luck to all that have applied.

A bit of a personal note... At the conclusion of the first "segmented symposium" held in November 2008, attendees expressed a desire to form an association. I am involved with the creation of a new "specialized" AAW chapter of segmented turners. I invite all segmenters to consider joining this new group. You can sign up at: <http://www.segmentedwoodturners.org/>

If you haven't yet renewed your AAW membership, then I encourage you to do so as soon as possible. You can be assured that we'll put your hard-earned dollars to good use.

Wishing everyone the best for the New Year,

Malcolm Tibbetts  
AAW Vice President