



Contains October 2010 Minutes November 2010



Michael Kehs Demo  
Carvings on Bowls and Platters  
Oct. 16, 2010

Michael Kehs, from Bucks Co. Pennsylvania has, received national acclaim for his carved bowls and platters. These enhancements have been on the rims, bands around the bowls and whole platters and bowls. He has expanded his carvings to larger pieces such as mirror frames and wall hangings. He did his first carvings when he was around 10 years old in 1980 -81. His mother saw his potential in carving and his delight when he finished a piece, that she felt he would benefit from a woodcarving club. She found one in their county for him to attend. He eventually joined the club and received further in-

struction in the carving of art forms. His first style of tools were for hand carving techniques. Later with the advent of power carvers, he moved to the air powered tools that would allow him to carve much faster. He did indicate that he would accept any type of tool that would allow him to finish his projects faster than the old style of carving. The other advantage that he found was that with the power carvers, you did not have to hold the project so tightly in your hand and risk damaging the piece, since they are so fragile near the end of the carving experience. He admitted that he has broken several pieces in the early years of his carving



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and it produced some serious heartache.

Over the years, he has enjoyed being an outdoor enthusiast and has used the shapes and designs of nature as ideas that he can incorporate into his carvings. One of his biggest outdoor activities is to explore the caves that exist in the Pennsylvania hills. He has utilized the stalactites and stalagmite shapes for the carvings he has been doing. He also includes the bat and salamander designs into his work. He stresses that one should carve what they know. He said that the biggest part of carving is doing the research to get the desired shapes correct. He said that many of his creations are thought up when he is driving long distances and has time to think.

His most well known piece is probably the enclosed vessel known as "Among the Leaves" which is carved with leaves and overlaid with salamanders. It took him approximately 180 to finish the piece. He worked on it for about two months and then set it aside for awhile before he was encouraged to finish it. It then took another two weeks to complete. In that vessel, he used the Jamison Hollowing System to hollow out the maple vessel. His cutter was made from 3/16" machinist tool steel and ground to his desired cutting edge. He did say that 90% of his hollowing is done with his bowl gouge.

He turns fast enough so that he is comfortable with the safe speed. He feels that it is somewhere around 26 surface feet per second. He uses a roughing gouge to remove most of the bark and large material. He has ground away one edge of the roughing gouge to give himself another cutting surface. He uses this to make his tenon on the bowl blank or vase blank to fit into the scroll chuck. He then will use a 1/2" spindle gouge to finish turn the exterior. He uses a 3/8" long drill that has been inserted into a handle, to drill a depth hole in the center of the vase or bowl blank which goes near the bot-

tom of what will be the finished interior of the bowl or vase. He then will use a bowl gouge to turn the interior of the bowl or vase. He will turn the vessel from the top to the bottom with the philosophy of finish turn the piece to a final finished surface, as far as he has entered the interior depth. He will turn in several stages until he has reached the bottom. Do not go back and try to return the interior while at any of the stages. Each stage should be completely finished before going on to the next stage. The turned wall will change its shape slightly as one makes progress through the stages. To go back and touch up the interior might cause the bowl to explode and damage the piece. He has made some scrapers from square files and uses them for cutting along the bottom of the vessel. He starts at the center of the bottom and pulls the scraper to the outer edge of the piece. Large scrapers of 1 1/4" or 1 1/2" are too large and will grab the bottom of the vessel and leave a gouge that will have to be smoothed out. He indicated that files used for turning tools can be dangerous because they are brittle and may break when used inside the vessel. He stated that he has used them for years and never has had an accident. To sand the interior of a vessel, which is hard to get to, he will use a 3/4" dowel rod and cover the end with some foam tape that is sticky on one side. He then will wrap a strip of sandpaper around the foam end and reach into the interior to do the finish sanding.

He uses templates for marking off his nature or animal designs. He gets his shapes for his patterns from the internet and will enlarge or reduce them to his required size. He will use the flat surfaces of blister packs that are used to protect merchandise on the store shelves. He will then draw the design on the thin walled vessel which will be carved later.

For grinding and carving tools, he will use the NSK brand of grinders. They are very fast and will turn at around 450,000 RPM and ac-

comply a very fast job of carving. He uses a 30 gallon air tank to hold his supply of air. It takes about 45 lbs of air pressure to run the grinder. It writes like a pencil and is very easy to use. He uses 1/16" diameter shank grinders. He also has 3/32" carving drills because he can carve on the side of the bits. Most tool bits that he has are of the 3/32" shanks. You have to hold the tool vertically to use it effectively. In the carving process, a mistake is sometimes made. This calls for design opportunities or creative adjustments. If errors are made then one can cast aside the broken piece and make another piece. Wood is readily available. He commented that "we make art or we make heat"! He also suggested that we should not be afraid to try new things in design. If you think it should be a certain way, then commit to it and create the piece to your satisfaction.

For his finished pieces, he will use an oil finish and wipe off the excess. Then he will let it dry overnight and add more coats in successive days. When it has dried thoroughly, he will buff the whole piece with the Beall Buffing System to put a nice sheen on the piece.

Respectfully submitted  
Jerry Schaible, sec.



### Michael Kehs – Inside Out Turnings

This project consists of using four thin square blanks of wood and turn them in a spindle format on the lathe. Then reverse the turned blanks and the negative space will result in a shaped turning.

1. Cut four squares of wood where the dimensions are 1 1/2" square and about 4 inches long. This will make a 3" ornament after it has been glued into place.
2. Place the 4 blanks into a chuck and hold in position.
3. Attach a disc on the tailstock end that has a 3" square recess on one side. This will hold the pieces in position on the tailstock side of the ornament. One will have to chisel out the recess in order to get it to fit the 4 gathered blanks.
4. Turn the cylinder round between the limits of the ornament.
5. Keep the ends square on the headstock and tailstock ends in order to glue up the ends when they are reversed.
6. Make a drawing on a piece of paper of the design that you wish to make. Measure all the numbers from one end only and the center line which runs the length of the blank.
7. Cut in the negative format with the turning tools. The planned pattern in the drawing is actually being cut away. It is advised that you learn to turn with the left hand, because the cuts are easier to make.
8. Use the bowl gouge, spindle gouge, or round nosed scraper as needed.
9. Use an oil finish and a Beall Buffing System to finish your work.

10. Stand back and admire the hanging ornament.



### M. Kehs – Finials

#### Top Finial

1. Cut blanks that are 1" – 1 ¼" square and two inches long.
2. Place blank in scroll chuck.
3. Use spindle roughing gouge to round the blank. Place a tenon on the tailstock side.
4. Turn the top cap of finial with decorative beads to suit creative design.
5. Undercut cap to fit the rounded ornament shape and have a good surface edge.
6. Make a back cut on the bevel edge that meets the ornament globe.
7. Use a sharp spindle gouge to turn the top of the cap and remove from waste material.

#### Bottom Finial

1. Place 6" long blank in scroll chuck.
2. Turn tenon on headstock side to fit the ornament opening.
3. Turn thin tiny end of finial on the tailstock side.
4. Put a turned acorn on the bottom of the finial tip.
5. Turn a thin step down spindle with beads to suit creative design.
6. Under cut the flange to fit the curvature of the globe.
7. Use parting tool to remove the finial from the waste material

Respectfully submitted  
Jerry Schaible, Sec.

BUCKEYE WOODWORKERS  
AND WOODTURNERS  
Oct. 16, 2010

The regular meeting of BWWT was held on Oct. 16, 2010 and called to order by Pres. Bill Stone. He welcomed all visitors and guests to the meeting. He indicated that he we had a special day today since we were going to receive a demonstration by Michael Kehs from Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Pres. Stone stated that he had been making contact with an owner of a small forester in Hartville Ohio who wanted us to be the recipient of some of his excess wood. These log segments and off cuts had been thrown away, burned or buried, just to get rid of them. The owner is willing to cut the logs to our specifications with a chain saw and then load them into our pickups to haul away for our woodturning purposes. He is a member of the NE Ohio Foresters Association. It was determined that we would make contact with him again in the spring of 2011 when he returns from Florida. It was decided for ease of procurement that several members of our executive committee would visit with him and acquire the woodturning blocks, then bring them back to the club meeting and let the members choose which ones they wanted.

There will be more on this activity at a later date in the spring.

The members of the NE Ohio Foresters Association will be holding several classes on chainsaw safety based on levels of accomplishment. Any member wishing to take these tuition based classes should contact Dave Hively at 330-332-0728 or Jim Elze at 330-337-8974.

The Annual BWWT Christmas Dinner will be held in December. The cost will be \$12.50 per person or \$25 per couple. The dinner will be held at the Camp Y Noah cafeteria. We will need some gifts or ornaments for the

Y Noah staff and kitchen help.

It was mentioned that several people at the Sept. meeting had driven through the horse barn area when they were leaving the Y Noah camp grounds. This happened at the same time that children were boarding the horses. This provides a very dangerous situation whereby the horses could be spooked because of the moving vehicles in the area and the result would be a small child would be thrown from the horse. We cannot risk the safety of the children at any camp function. It is therefore important to note that we are invoking a new rule that no one is to drive past the horses when they are out of the corral area.

The president asked that anyone that has changed their phone number or email address should let Bill Seabolt, treas., know of the recent changes.

The Paul Bunyon Show in Cambridge Ohio was a complete success. BWWT members were asked to participate in showing how a log segment or turning blank could be turned into a very nice platter or bowl. Jim Doll, pres. and owner of Doll Lumber in Southington Ohio was the show coordinator. He asked several of our members to participate in this woodturning demonstration. Jim Doll was so interested that he purchased a Powermatic lathe for us to use at this event. He was so impressed with our visual contributions that he wanted us to come back next year. They have promised us an even larger venue for demonstrating our activities.

The Hartville Tool Show will be held at the end of November and we will need demonstrators at this big event. We usually draw a large crowd at our demonstration and also acquire some new members. Members interested in demonstrating should contact Bill Stone for more information.

The BWWT work crew rebuilt the shower

stalls in the restrooms at Camp Y Noah during the summer months and since then there has been some water damage to the counter tops. Some members of our club revisited the project and made the corrections that would be needed to bring the counters back to their original condition.

Bill Seabolt, the treasurer, gave a report of our treasury and also indicated that the membership drive had started for 2011. He also indicated that he had AAW membership forms for anyone wishing to join the national organization on woodturning. Tom Nellis is now assisting in the collection of dues.

The demonstration scheduled for November will be on jewelry making and small gifts. There will be no hands on activity scheduled for that time.

Hoby Horn and Larry McCardel who comprise the nominating committee, have identified the new candidates for offices in BWWT. Hoby indicated that he looked for individuals that were interested and energetic to lead our club for another year. The following candidates were selected: Bob Scharl was nominated for V.Pres. Bill Seabolt, for Treasurer, and Jerry Schaible for Sec. Anyone wishing to nominate someone from the floor should have asked the person prior to the election to get their approval. The election will take place at the Nov. meeting. The previous years VP will automatically become the pres.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jerry Schaible, Sec.

## Calendar of Events

**The November meeting will be in our regular meeting place at Camp Y-NOAH on Saturday November 20th. Meeting begins at 9:30**

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**The Hartville Tool Show** will be held on Nov. 19, and 20<sup>th</sup> at the Hartville Hardware store in Hartville, Ohio. We will need demonstrators during this event. An AAW membership will be needed to participate in this event. Lunch will be provided by the store in appreciation for our efforts. Hartville Hardware makes donations each month to our club raffle table. The Hartville Tool division has provided us a rebate back on our tool purchases by the club members. This past 2 years it has amounted to over \$200.

The Annual BWWT Christmas Dinner will be held in December. The cost will be \$12.50 per person or \$25 per couple. The dinner will be held at the Camp Y Noah cafeteria. We will need some gifts or ornaments for the Y Noah staff and kitchen help.

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