



From The Shop



The newsletter of the Lehigh Valley Woodworker's Guild

Issue 09.2008

Next Meeting: September 16th, 2008 (3rd Tuesday!)

Location: Lehigh Co. Senior Center
1633 Elm Street
Allentown, PA

Title: FESTOOL DEMO! From the TOYSTORE!!

The KAPEX Sliding Compound Miter saw and two new routers will be featured. The Kapex is supposed to be incredible.

July Highlights:

The incomparable Bill Grumbine turning TOOL HANDLES and other doo dads.



Bill Grumbine provided another entertaining and informative presentation. Always a great presentation by Bill no matter if you are interested in the subject matter or not.

The August meeting was a presentation by Bill Grumbine on turning tool handles. I like to call any appearance of Bill at the Allentown Senior Center "Nightmare on Elm Street". Reality is, I have heard Bill present many times since 1996, and he has not lost his touch at being informative, very funny, and with knowledge of his subject. He also has opinions. You ask him a question, he will not shirk at providing a direct response. Much as it upsets me to say this, because Bill and I have this great "gotcha" relationship, there is a lot to like about Bill Grumbine. There is a lot to Bill Grumbine, period.



Notice you can barely see the skew in this photo. Bill tucks his forearm and hand into his "turning muscle" and uses his entire body to steady the tool. IN his particular case, that is pretty damned sturdy.

Like his "turning muscle". One of Bill's constant lessons on turning is that you tuck the tool into your body and move the tool with your body. Since the lathe is generally waist high, you would essentially use the stability of your entire body to steady the tool. We will not talk about relative circumference at this juncture, only to say that some folks have larger turning muscles than others. Bill feels that he is the victim of "turning muscle envy".

I recall when I used to shoot trap. For a couple of years, I fried about 400 shells a week. Well, if you know anything about trap shooting, you know that the clay bird leaves the trap house and goes in different directions. Well, the ability to smoothly rotate your upper body toward the clay as it move to the left or right or up or down is essential to being a good shooter. Now, trap shooting is a sport where often you need to wait to shoot. Or, if you are in a tournament, you need to hang around to see if you win or will be in a shoot off in the event of a tie. So why not sit and have a bite to eat? And they do not serve endive salads at these places. Burgers, dogs, fries. Sausage and peppers. Kielbasa. Pretzels and chips. So you develop what they call "trap shooters physique" - Larger in the middle. Helps smooth the rotation. But I digress...

Turning tool handles can be a very effective introduction to turning. You can use any wood, and since these are small pieces, you can use very exotic

woods without breaking the bank. You can make the handles as plain or as fancy as you choose. As large or as small as you like. Also, as you know, most tool handles have a metal ferrule to support the portion of the tool where stress is greatest – where the tang of the tool enters the handle. Bill uses a variety of copper pipe couplings cut with a tubing cutter. This is cost effective, potentially decorative, and does the job. In fact, I have seen some chisels that have a ferrule at the top end as well to keep them from splitting due to the hammering on them. You can also buy these from vendors such as Lee Valley.

Bill started by asking how many people have lathes of any size. Many people raised their hands. Then he asked how many people actually use their lathes. About half as many folks raised their hands. So, as Frank Klausz would say, and I have used this quote before but it hits home – “If you want to be a woodworker, you have to work wood. If you have all the tools but do not work wood, you are not a woodworker; you are a tool collector.” I confess – I have a nice little Delta mini lathe. Bought it at a tool show in Fort Washington. Used it once. Once. My wife once saw a lady woodworker (name escapes me) at a show in Raritan, NJ, turning tops and ornaments and pens and little jewelry items and convinced me she wanted a mini lathe, but she never used it either. I think that looking at Bill taking on a project as un-intimidating as tool handles may inspire some of you to get a block of wood and turn something.



DO NOT spend a fortune on a lathe, a lot of money on hand tools, and then stand in front of this setup, fire it up, and start turning. Get face and breathing protection.

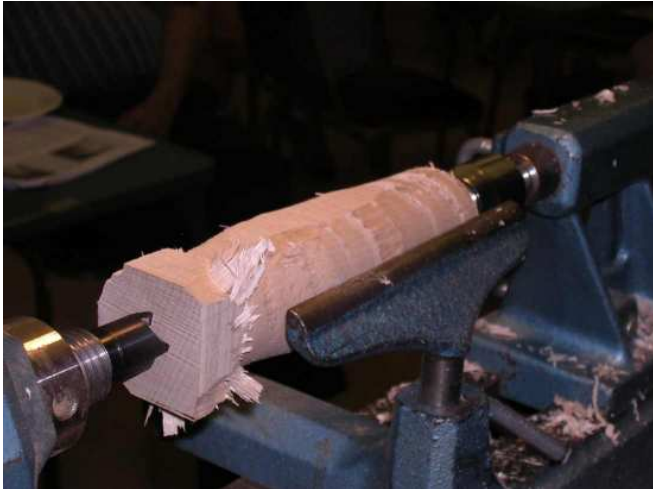
One of the things Bill stresses is the use of face and breathing protection. He uses a full face mask with ventilation. It is pricey. His costs \$700! He asked how much you feel your lungs are worth. Good question. That said, minimally, a full face mask is essential. It will not do a darn thing about fine particulates, but it will sure keep an errant chunk of wood or even an improperly held kicked back tool out of your face. God knows most of us are not getting any better looking. On the mask issue, recall the presentation by Mr. Dugan of the PA Forestry department. Even domestic woods contain carcinogens, and tropical woods are supposedly even worse. Bill's mask has a hepa filter. It also has the air intake at the back of the mask. Bill advised that this has a potential undesirable feature he likes to refer to as the “burrito effect”. Well, this is potentially a hazard. It may be even worse if you have to grind a tool and there are sparks..... Seriously, wear face and breathing protection.

Bill also uses a sturdy shop apron from the same reasons. Our Guild aprons are made of strong denim. You WILL have stuff bouncing off of you. Protect yourself. But, Bill cautions, do not throw your turning clothes into the wash. He did and his wife promptly took him to task, asking how the wood chips got into her underwear. No doubt a chafing experience. This is a humorous story, but one with a message we may forget about – wood chips from turning WILL stick to socks, accumulate in pant cuffs if you have them, fall into pockets of shop aprons or our plaid flannel “Norm” shirts. Think twice before tossing them into the common laundry.

Turning itself is a matter of knowing the basics and doing it. You will not get better purely by having good tools or good books. One of the other skills you will need to hone is tool sharpening (pun intended). Dull tools are dangerous and will produce inferior results. This is true of ANY blade tool but none more than turning. Accomplished turners also become accomplished tool sharpeners. Many methods work. We had an excellent presentation on sharpening tools by Bill Hylton a couple of months ago. You can go as expensive or cheap as you like. But your tools will need to be sharp. Bill was showing how sharp his skew was by shaving hair off of his arm.

Bill's material of choice for handles varies. He had several specimens made of curly maple, and also had a mallet a friend of his turned from Bloodwood. Bill told an interesting story about worm holes in wood, or, in fact wood that still HAS worms in it. He had one woman terrified about worms in wood, and, in fact, had a piece of wood that had a worm in it playing hide and seek with him. One decent piece of information – in a contest between a sharp turning tool and a worm, the tool wins every time. Bill likes many native Pennsylvania wood for turning except the Oaks. Cherry, Maple, and Walnut are all good. Oak's wide grain is a problem, red being worse than white, and

'Bad words will have to be said' – a famous Grumbine quote from one of his excellent DVD's – when you turn it.



Bill started knocking the corners off of this blank with his skew. Note the tool rest is north of center..

Turning. Start off by placing the blank in the lathe. Easy. Clear of the tool rest. Between centers, right? OK. Bill uses a skew chisel to round out the blank. Most instruction will tell you to use a roughing gouge, but Bill's weapon of choice is the skew. Generally, a skew is considered one of the more difficult of the lathe tools to control but some, but Bill places emphasis on the right technique. He also keeps the tool rest a little higher during this process.



Have at you! Bill making chips. If you have read the text carefully so far, you know that these will get into your clothes, stick to your socks, so do not toss them into the family hamper.

Next Bill begins to create the contour of the handle. This is pretty easy in this case as Bill turned the classic shape handle (thick in the middle tapered to the ends. Obviously, you cannot taper too close to the ends till you are ready to remove the work.



As I think they used to say on Hollywood Squares, "the square gets a circle!" The square blank is round and Bill checks for roundness by turning on the lathe and laying a tool over the top of the work. If it judders, the work is not round. This photo happens to be from the second handle Bill turned.

When he got down to the "tool end" of the handle, he got a parting tool and cut roughly to the diameter he wanted for the ferrule, using a skew to remove the rest. A lot of trial and error, with the error on the side of the end being too big for the ferrule, getting the rounded tool end of the handle to the diameter of the inside of the ferrule. Bill did note you can always remove more wood, but it is really hard to add it back if you cut too much.



Bill was careful to mark the work with the length of the ferrule before doing this. Bill uses a caliper to measure the diameter, but cautions to turn OFF the lathe and not attempt to measure while it is running. Embarrassing to have a caliper sticking out of your forehead in the Emergency room.



The work is now to the point where Bill used a parting tool to get the shoulder close to ferrule diameter.

On this process, you can always use some epoxy if you do go a little overboard. No one will know but you. In Bill's case, he does not want to know so he does it right. He also cautions that a woodworking friend will see it and make fun of you. Trial and error. You get the size right, you need no glue – just hammer it on.



The ferrule on the work, Bill turns (HA!, get it?) his attention to the butt end of the tool.

With this classic shaped handle, Bill also advised that when turning, you want to turn DOWNHILL, or from the large diameter to the small diameter when possible. This is a smoother more natural motion and the wood / skew relationship is more controllable. It flows better with the grain. Sometimes a tool will leave small ridges on the work and these can be removed using a technique Bill called a "shear" scrape. You need to see this – writing about it is sort of a waste.

The photo of the step where the hole is drilled tells that story. Lathes receive centers and fittings that conform to a standard press fit called a Morse taper, and the chuck slips into this and is held in place by the friction and taper. A quick tap loosens it.



A drill chuck with a Morse taper. Morse #2 is most common. Used in drill presses, lathes, etc.



Here Bill has removed one of the centers on the lathe and replaced it with a drill chuck that slips into the lathe. He has installed a bit of proper size, gently moves the drill bit point to the center of the handle, turns on the lathe, and cranks the center with the chuck mounted into the handle to the proper depth.

Bill advises that handles should be sanded but not to a really smooth finish as they are, after all, handles used for tools and you do want a decent grip surface. Back to the butt end, you want to turn it to a point where it is small but still capable of holding the piece. Then remove it. Remember when backing out the bit, if you back it out all the way, your handle will fly across the room, or, worse, fly into you!

Cut the scrap off with a band saw and touch up the end.

When it comes to finishing smooth pieces, some folks like to burnish the piece with smooth metal, but remember a burnished surface will not take stain very well.

Bill has an excellent web site and was one of the first people I personally knew to exploit the web, and, in fact, was one of the first people I knew to own a digital

camera – we both had early Sony's that used a floppy drive to store images.

Bill's web site: <http://wonderfulwood.com/>

Bill is a light hearted guy, and has an irreverent sense of humor. But do not be fooled by this. He is a man who has definite beliefs and convictions. I lifted the following from his site as it meant something to me and maybe it will mean something to you:

I am a Christian. That is the foundation of my being, and everything else is filtered through that, including my woodwork. I believe in the God of the Bible, and that He created this universe. He is a God of order, and we see that order in Creation. This belief influences the way I work. All that I do seeks to give glory to God, to recognize and give thanks to Him as my Lord and Savior.

There is an incredible amount of beauty to be found in wood. Even in a single species, we never cease to see the differences, even with the similarities that we expect. Like people, each piece of wood is an individual, never like the one before or after it. My goal in my artistic turning is to bring out that beauty. I prefer simple shapes that reflect and showcase the beauty of the wood.

Wood is an imperfect medium. It has flaws and faults that sometimes make it unusable. But just as God uses imperfect men and women to accomplish His will, I use imperfect wood to show the beauty in nature. Decaying wood, wood with cracks, knots, and other defects is still beautiful, sometimes more beautiful than wood that has no such problems. I strive to bring out that beauty in each and every piece that comes into my hands.

Most of the wood that I use is reclaimed or rescued. By that I mean that I use wood that was saved from the burn pile or from the landfill. It comes from trees that were cut down because of age, damage, or danger to its surroundings. The vast majority of the wood that I use is local to me, meaning that it comes from somewhere in eastern Pennsylvania, often within 30 miles of my home. I am blessed in that Pennsylvania has a rich diversity of species not found in many other places as well as a high quality that is often the envy of others.

Bill's e-mail:
ultradad@ptd.net or bill@wonderfulwood.com

Bill sells 2 DVD / VHS instructional presentations:

Turned Bowls Made Easy (2004) is considered by many to be the best video ever made with regard to the entire process of turning a bowl.

Beyond the Basic Bowl (2006) was a follow up to the first video, and offers instruction on more advanced techniques such as natural edged bowls, winged bowls, and bowl coring.

I own these and they are great. They are \$29.95 each or take 10% off when ordering both.

Bill mentioned he is a local rep for a company called Robust Lathes. These are American made and

<http://www.turnrobust.com/>



A Robust lathe. Yeah, I'd say it is \$5,600. Made in America. Looks like it would still work if you dropped a car on it.

Bill also gives many woodworking presentations locally and one on one instruction, or even a small group. I would personally highly recommend if you are serious about learning turning, you take advantage of this. I believe I am going to finally do this. My wife, stepson, and his wife would probably love this. Me? I taught Bill all he knows. I just do not like to flaunt it.

To close, Bill is a long time friend, a good man, a great turner and craftsman, teacher, husband and father. I remember him from his days on South Side Easton working out of a rented garage. He now has a big place / farm in Berks County and hosts a huge woodworking party every August known as 5 barns. Home now is beautiful downtown Helffrichsville. This is nothing more than a spot on the map several miles outside of Kutztown, PA, and until a couple of years ago when the developments arrived, it was only his house and the neighbors across the road, both stone houses built in the early 1800s.

In case you thought Bill was just another pretty face, first, you should get a serious vision check and then, you should know that he is also a counselor/ preacher/ teacher, with a Masters of Biblical Studies and two years post-masters work in marriage and family counseling. He home schooled his three very bright children.

Lest I say too many nice things about this guy, I would like to add he don't sweat much for a fat guy. I was lying about the sweat.

**October Meeting – WOODWORKING
CONTEST!**

We need to know who will be bringing in something. Please be prepared to let us know at the next meeting!

Drag and Brag



Will Schmidt's Oak root sailing ship.

**Will advised it reminded him of the following poem:
"Sea-Fever"**

I must down to the seas again to the lonely sea and the sky,
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by,
And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sail's
shaking,
And a grey mist on the sea's face, and a grey dawn breaking.

I must down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide
Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied;
And all I ask is a windy day with the white clouds flying,
And the flung spray and the blown spume, and the sea-gulls
crying.

I must down to the seas again, to the vagrant gypsy life,
To the gull's way and the whale's way where the wind's like a
whetted knife;
And all I ask is a merry yarn from a laughing fellow-rover
And quiet sleep and a sweet dream when the long trick's
over.

By John Masefield (1878-1967).
(English Poet Laureate, 1930-1967.)

Steering Committee notes

I could not make it. No notes.

And the Woodcraft winner is...



Smiling Gerry Chiusano!!

**Updates from Jeffry Lohr on the Ghana
outreach.**

Subject: Jeff Lohr calling with some remarkable news!

Greetings,

You honored me with your trust to donate some bucks towards my West Africa project earlier this year. It is important that I update you on how effective your funds have been put to use and my apologies for being incommunicado. Few have heard from me since the July 14, 2008 project reception and exhibition fund raiser. This was not due to lack of progress or laziness... far from it. The reality is we have just been too busy making progress to report about it and the project has very significantly grown in scope.

I am very hopeful you will take about 5 or 10 minutes to check out our new moringacommunity.org web site. I'll pass that web address onto you in a minute but I first want to fill you in on a few pieces of information in way of thanks for what you so kindly helped set in motion. Without your support this never would have become a reality so **please prepare yourself for some very substantial and amazing news.**

First, although assistance will be given to the Baobab Children's Foundation in Ghana, (the school from which we got the original idea to start this project), it became apparent that so much more could be done for a lot more people in Africa if we started a new, more diverse program independent of Baobab. The Baobab Foundation, although an effective organization for the people it serves, limits its program to 50 or less at risk street children and/or orphans at any one time. Many at Baobab are in fact, too young to take full advantage of what we have to offer in the way of tooling and technology. In learning more about this and the nature of the Baobab's mission statement, it was very clear that creating our own training facility targeting older teens, young adults, and even full adults for that matter would have a much more effective impact on a much larger population of West Africa.

You will learn more about this on the MoringaCommunity.org web site, but the original plan to ship production oriented machinery was scrapped for a much more practical and appropriate technology specifically designed to work around the limitations of income and resources of the indigenous population of West Africa. This technology expresses itself in what we are calling **Mr. Jeffrey's Third World Machine Shop**. The moniker of the "Mr. Jeffrey's" title was by no means self aggrandizing but designed to enable name recognition for soliciting tool companies to lend their support or at least a discount for us as a source of supply. Also, Abu has always called me Mr. Jeffrey so it seemed like a good idea.

Remarkably, we also discovered that we may have a very practical and easily applied technology to give to our African friends to help fight starvation and malnutrition. This part of the project was a complete surprise but it hit us smack in the face the more we learned about the struggles of life of the African people. The area we are expanding into is food preservation technology. Surprisingly, no tropical third world country does any food canning or dehydration (at least not in Africa). You will learn more about this on the web site but we are confident this part of our project will be a very big deal.

So please, take a few minutes out of your busy day to check out <http://moringacommunity.org/> Specifically I am hopeful you will check out the following pages below:

<http://moringacommunity.org/our.project.history.htm>
(note, info at the top of this page is older news so please scroll down for the latest update about what has been done since you last heard from me)

http://moringacommunity.org/moringa_center_ghana.htm This is news of what is currently happening on the ground in Ghana with our project.

<http://moringacommunity.org/Mr.Jeffry%27s%20Third%20World%20Machine%20Shop.htm> This is the machine shop we designed and built which is at the heart of the project

<http://moringacommunity.org/Food%20Preservation.htm>
This is info about our food preservation part of the project.

Thank you so much for your support thus far, Look for an update very soon about our **Moringa Community Center** training facility that the villagers of Bako are building to house our life skill and vocational learning center.

One last thing. Understand that all this has been done on only a total of \$11,340 in donations to date.

Needless to say, Mr. Jeffrey knows how to stretch a dollar. We have been fortunate to have several people donate as much as \$500 and even one that has donated \$1,000 but most of our funds generated to date have been on private \$25, \$50, and \$100 donations which accounts for a significant portion of funds raised to date. The financial holes in the project thus far have been filled privately by my wife and myself with the help of J.D.Lohr Woodworking Inc which has funded the lion share of the project to date.

We are currently working on gaining our own 501C3 nonprofit status for **MoringaCommunity.org Inc**. You will recall I was initially very reluctant to do this for fear of the on-going hassle I was getting myself into but I now have some terrific volunteers lending a hand so the prospect does not seem as daunting. For an introduction to our organization's staff please check out: <http://moringacommunity.org/board.of.directors.htm>

It will take a while but once we have our 501C3 we will hopefully be able to apply for some of the few West African grants we have found that fit our mission statement.

In closing, I would be in your debt if you would kindly pass the word on about this truly grass roots project to others. We sure could use some press and a much larger base of potential supporters other than just my past students, personal friends, and family that together are solely responsible for this going as far as it has to date. Right now we need to get Abu a pickup truck to transport materials to the building site for our Moringa Community Center as well as provide transportation for the 5 man work crew that the village chiefs have assigned to Abu 5 days a week to clear the land for construction to begin. We have enormous support from the village of Bako so the addition of a Moringa Community Truck would be huge for moral in addition to enabling a greatly enhanced building schedule and time table. Trust that the Ghanaian people themselves are the real ones doing the work to better their own lives with this project and it will touch your heart when you see the excitement that Abu has generated in this community with the prospects of a practical life skill learning center. All we are doing is enabling them to help themselves, they are giving the land and building the center, all we are doing is providing support, tooling, and technology for them to improve their lives on their own.

I am truly honored for the kind support you have given to get this project rolling. I you take the time to check out the new <http://moringacommunity.org/> web site, I think you will agree it is truly remarkable that so much has been accomplished by so few in only 6 months time. If we can grow our base of support we will be ever so much more effective in the months and years to come so please spread the word about this project when ever you have an opportunity to do so. If we can grow our base of support we can make so much more of a difference in the lives of the often forgotten people of Africa.

Take care all and thanks again for your support.

Jeffry Lohr (Director Moringacommunity.org)

242 N. Limerick Rd

Schwenksville, PA 19473

on the web at: www.moringacommunity.org

Wood Specials

SHADY LANE TREE FARM

Louise & Mike Peters
5220 Shimerville Road
Emmaus, PA
610 965-5612 Please call

FLEETWOOD LUMBER & FLOORING

BILL BURKERT
27 Rapp Rd.
Fleetwood, PA
610 944-8364 Please call

Member discount 5%

Bailey Wood Products, Inc.

441 Mountain Rd.
RD#2 Box 38
Kempton, PA
610 756-6827

Woodcraft

Pkwy Shopping Ctr.
1534 Lehigh St.
Allentown, Pa., 18103

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2008 Meeting Calendar:

Month	Topic	Speaker
September 16th	FESTOOL DEMO	FESTOOL – arranged by Woodcraft
October 21st	CONTEST TIME!	
November 18th	FREUD DEMO!	Freud tools –arranged by Woodcraft

Next Meeting: September 16, 2008 (3rd Tuesday!)

Location: Lehigh Co. Senior Center
1633 Elm Street
Allentown, PA

**FESTOOL DEMO's the KAPEX Sliding compound miter and new routers!!
Arranged by our Allentown Woodcraft!**