

New Years Resolutions

By Ken Deaner

It is easy making New Year resolutions and hard to keep them. My first resolution is that this year I will try to keep my resolutions.

- I will attend at least one woodworking show and one turning symposium.
- I will only buy tools or gadgets I believe will improve my woodworking skills.
- I will force myself to try a toy before I buy a toy.
- I will attend at least one class on woodturning that will teach me a skill I do not already have.
- I will master at least one new skill I do not currently know.
- I will visit the workshop of a fellow turner or have a new turner visit my shop to share my knowledge with that person.
- I will refine my forms and seek to improve my art.
- I will spend more time turning.
- I will strive to maintain an orderly, clean, and safe shop.
- I will spend a portion of my time oiling and maintaining my equipment.
- I will try to improve my grinding and honing so that my finishing cuts will require less sanding.
- I will try and make more tools than I buy.
- I will try to show at least one new creation at the Club's Show and Tell each month.
- I will try and come up with meaningful articles for the AOF Newsletter that will enhance our member's turning knowledge.

The New Year is only a few days old and I have already showed one of my long-time friends, **David Rosenblatt**, how to turn a bowl. It was his first attempt at turning and it was a success. I visited **Bob Brady** to learn how to make a box scraper that can clean both the bottom of a box as well as the walls without catching. The trick is an 89 degree angle at the tip and a regular scraper bevel angle of 55-65 degrees. I attended the "learn to turn" symposium held at Brady's shop on Saturday, January 10, 2004 to assist those who need to learn turning skills. I also attended a meeting of the Long Island Wood Carvers at the suggestion of **Sandee Larsen**.

The New Year is a great time to rededicate oneself to improving skills in a beloved hobby. The resolutions are a means to this end. Writing down a list of objectives for public perusal will hopefully make me work just that much harder to succeed. Perhaps someone will keep score and let me know how I did on January 1, 2005.

Learn To Turn Seminar Saturday January 10

It was the coldest day in ten years but it did not stop more than a dozen members, novice and experienced turners, from meeting in Bob Brady's shop at 9:00 AM. Bob had fired up the wood burning stove at 6:00 AM and it was 72 degrees when we arrived.

Bob started the seminar by placing some spindle blanks in the lathe. Members practiced with a roughing gouge, skew, and spindle detail gouge before they were ready to attack a bowl blank. Once we were warm we stepped outside to the back of the barn and Bob chain-sawed a log into two halves. We proceeded down the hill to the garage with the blank. Bob used a template to show how to cut the rectangular half-log into a circle. We went back to the barn and chucked up the blank.

Everyone took turns at the lathe. Special attention was given to having members experiment with Irish grinds and fingernail grinds. There are many different tools and many different grinds that will get you to the same point in forming and hollowing your bowls. It is a matter of personal preference. We all agreed that the Irish grind was superior for the outside of the bowl and the fingernail grind was better for the bottom curve in the inside of the bowl.

The club's mini lathe was set up and members experimented with both spindle and bowl turning on this fine little tool.

Many members brought their tools and we had an opportunity to experiment with each others gouges, scrapers and skews. The were both home made tools as well as Sorby, Crown, M-2 steel etc.

Many members brought bagels, donuts and Bob was kind enough to supply hot coffee on this bitterly cold day. Everyone learned something new and the time flew by.

This was the first of what we hope will be many opportunities for our members to become better turners. Thanks to Bob for the use of his shop and expert instruction.