

## Arrowmont Adventure

Ken Deaner

**Joel Rakower** called me this past winter to tell me that **Jacques Vesery** had asked him to be his shop assistant at Arrowmont School of Art and Crafts in Tennessee the week of April 11-16. Turning was not to be the focus, the thrust of the course would be design, carving, and texturing. I participated in a class last year conducted by Binh Pho that had a similar description and I learned a great deal. Jacques class could only add to what I had already studied. I called Arrowmont and reserved a seat.

Jacques demonstrated at our club a few years ago. I watched with interest but at the time I was not ready to attempt carving, coloring and burning. Over the years my skills have improved and I have added features to my turnings. I went from being afraid to take chances with a well turned piece that others might consider complete to spending hours trying to do more with the wood. When I feel I have gone about as far as my imagination can take me I take a class with an artist whose work has moved me. The stimulation of fresh ideas motivates me to try new things.

Classes at Arrowmont run from Sunday to Friday. The fourteen turners in the class were all experienced. Most brought unfinished work as requested by the instructor. Some class members did not pick up a turning tool all week. Every day brought new challenges. I learned to deep carve, burn feathers and to color work. Jacques spoke in detail about form and shape. He presented a slide presentation critiquing his work and that of major movers in the art of turning. He pointed out how he believed a piece could have been improved by refining the shape or adjusting the surface decoration.

Jacques demonstrated how to turn a small hollow vessel and inset a rim. He also showed us how to grind a 3/8 gouge with a radical Irish grind without a jig. He showed us which carving burrs he preferred as well as which gouges worked best for carving.

We worked day and night breaking only for wonderful communal meals and nightly slide presentations by course instructors. Class members helped each other as the Jacques insisted that we use our imagination to create our own examples of what we were shown.

Joel worked hard to cut blanks for the class as needed, and stayed late every night in the shop supervising those who wanted to work late. He placed an emergency order for wood burners and carving tools that arrived in a day.

One day's frustration turned into the next days successes. Carving chips flew, fingers got painted and the smell of

burning wood filled the air. The end of the week brought with it a show and tell. Dozens of fine projects graced the turning shop. Students from other disciplines visited to see what we had done. With Jacques instruction we experience much success.

## LIWA Meeting April 24, 2004

Attendance: **Carl Saenger, Joe Burrafato, Ken Deaner, Mike Manus, Bob Fentress, Bob Kaplan, Bob Brady, Jim Cleary, Jim Feurbacher, Werner Wiegand, Martin Rost, Bob Urso, Leon Edelson, Marty Mandelbaum, Graham Kelly, Steve Fulgoni, Charlie Panzner, Dave Perry, Joe DeMaio, Josh Baranel, Lenny Mulqueen, John Wagner, Joel Rakower, Peter Richichi**

New members: **James Pagano; 557 B Washington Ave, Lindenhurst, 11757; 631-225-5224; Fred Erardt; 17 So. Summit Ave., Patchogue 11772; 631-475-5019**

Treasurer reports \$1,881.29 in the bank.

Thanks to **Steve Fulgoni** for printing color flyers about the club.

Thanks for the pile of wood donated to the wood auction by our members. Everyone who participated in the auction went home with more than one piece of wood to turn.

### NOT FOR SALE "FREE"

Craftsman (circa late 1960's) bar lathe. Motor needs to be replaced. 3/4 x 16—Good for parts.—Jim Cleary (516)437-6107—Saildana@aol.com.

Thanks to **Marty Mandelbaum** for picking up **Phil Brennon** at the airport Friday and bring him to the Connecticut ferry so that our sister club could share the cost of travel to the Northeast as well as the expertise of a renowned turner from Arizona.