

## Mike Mocho Workshop

**Mike Mocho** is a studio turner as well as a full time college instructor in New Mexico. He focuses on spindle turning, furniture making and musical instruments. He began the workshop with a slide presentation of his work and went on to demonstrate how to turn spindles into decorative turnings.

Mike showed the club how to use a skew. He recommends turning blanks round using a skew or a roughing gouge by starting at the center and moving to a small diameter at the ends of the piece.

Mike showed the Club how to use a chatter tool on end grain. You can make your own tool but Sorby's multi-cutter tool is a good value. You must experiment with these tools to find the right angle and lathe speed to get the effect you desire. He finds that maple and boxwood are better suited than oak or walnut. The tool is extended over the rest to get vibration and a decorative effect.

It was a fine demo that met the needs of both novice as well as more experienced turners.

## Why We Turn

By Ken Deaner

I had many lengthy conversations with a number of the world's best and most influential turners. I have concluded from this that we turn for several different reasons. The hobby turner does it for the sheer joy of watching chips fly off of a lathe. Friends and neighbors are impressed by the work and appreciate the many gifts they receive. Professional turners do it to earn a living. They teach, write and sell their work. Some of the work they sell is art but many are forced to turn more craft oriented items to supplement their art turning. The third category turner is not a

full-time professional nor is he a full time hobby turner. This is the majority of turners in the AAW. They have full or part-time jobs and turn on-the-side. They do some shows because their spouses run out of space to display their turnings. Their friends and neighbors have also run out of space. Some of these turners love the art and others the craft.

Every kid that graduates high school should learn a vocational skill. Why not learn to turn? It can be a trade or a hobby. It is a great way to relax or get aggravated. It is more productive than knocking a little white ball into a hole. At the end of the day you have something tangible for the time you have spent.

They AAW is growing very rapidly. When it was founded it catered to the group in the middle. It sought to teach turning in a desperate attempt to avoid turning's extinction. It was so successful that over 11,000 members have joined. More than 800 people attended the July 2004 Symposium. The vast majority of those attending were first timers. This says something about where the focus of the organization should continue to be.

Professional turners are few but their work is well known. They appear in books and are promoted by galleries. They are among the great teachers of turning. The majority of AAW members appreciate their contribution to turning. The focus of the AAW should continue to be the other two groups. They pay the bulk of the dues that enables the organization to grow. They attend the symposiums and love to watch chips fly from the lathe. They strive to improve their skills so that non-turning public gets quality turnings at craft shows.

Politics should not play a part in the turning world. Turners are the most generous group in sharing techniques and helping future generations learn to turn. We are all big kids at heart. Turning keeps us young. The organization we support should focus on our needs so that we can teach future generations about the art/craft we love.