

February 2008

This is my first article as president of Dakota Woodturners. In this space, I will give my opinion on the direction our club should take, inform you of any national AAW issues that pertain to our club, and pass on information I have read or learned from mistakes. Winter and early spring are the best times of the year to be working in the shop. Take advantage of it. Try something new that you have wanted to do, but have not had the time. If you want to find out if anyone else has done it, mention it during show and tell. People can respond then or talk to you later.

I believe our club has to strive to meet the needs of every member. Some of these needs are developing basic turning skills, getting good wood to work with, learning to sharpen tools, learning a new type of turning, and perfecting a favorite project. Please let me know if you have something you desire from our club and you are not getting it.

I would like to see us do some activities as a club in relation to shop-made tools and jigs. If you have any suggestions, let me know. Possibilities include cutting sanding disks, sanding disk holders, scraping tools, small hollowing tools, buffing set-ups, and use of routers. Maybe we can come up with a small project and get it going. The session would not have to be at a meeting. A group with similar interests could get together at a shop and try a project for mutual benefit.

I applied for a \$1000 grant from AAW for our symposium. I believe we will be able to get it before the symposium. The awards are made in March. We are covered by AAW insurance at our meetings, classes, and symposium as long as the event is sanctioned by our club.

For the last part of my article, here is some information on scraping from an article in "Fine Woodworking" magazine by Richard Raphan. Within minutes of walking into the workshop on his first day of his woodturning career, his boss said, "You might have heard that real turners do not use scrapers – we do in this workshop, it makes life a lot easier."

Scrapers are very effective in removing the tiny grooves left by gouges on faceplate work, where the grain direction is 90 degrees from the lathe axis and also on end grain. Remove the bulk of the material with a gouge and finish up with a scraper. Scrapers do not work very well in spindle turning.

On the inside of bowls, scrape a little above center. On the outside of bowls, scrape at centerline. The scraper should be tilted slightly down to help avoid catches. On end grain, tilt the tool on its side to get a more refined cut, sometimes called shear scraping. Tilting the tool also works on face grain as a final cut.

Please contact me with any comments, suggestions, and questions you may have. Remember to find out the proper way to use a tool and then practice, practice, practice.

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