

March 2008

Doug Stowe is a well-known woodworker who specializes in boxes. He has written three books on the subject. Many of his views parallel our views as woodturners. He writes: "Woodworking is a process of story telling. A single piece of wood can tell what type of tree it came from and where, what the soil and climate were like where it grew, in short, the story of its life. The woodworker takes the wood and adds his or her story, expressing a level of understanding of material and tools, recording in the wood as if in a journal, the evolution of personal values and the narrative of his or her growth as a craftsman." Our story is told in the shape we choose and the decorations we add with paint, dyes, carving, and burning.

He also writes about striving for perfection, but never getting there. "A craftsman sees the points where his or her own work needs refinement, the little slips of the saw or chisel, the sanding marks, the slight rounding where something should be straight. Fortunately, most observers do not notice these things and accept our work, seeing it as perfect despite its many flaws, or at least, choosing to pay attention to its strengths." Never discard any work because it did not turn out to be what you expected or what you were striving for. Others will see it as the work of skilled hands that helped continue the story that began when the tree was planted.

Be sure to bring your tools to the March meeting for sharpening. We will have a few stations set up and help to set up the jigs. I have a good article on spalting that we can go over and will have some copies available. The article is called "Spalting, A Fungus Amongus".

Search your shop and your wood stores for an item or two for the silent auction at our symposium. The auction is a fun part of the symposium and a good fund raiser.

I have the bottle problem solved for the CA glue purchase. Thick and thin CA glue will be available for purchase at the March meeting again. Also plan to have more accelerator available. We plan to always have accelerator on hand for purchase at the meetings. I have the glue saved for the people that wrote their names on the list last meeting.

Duey