

The weekend of October 22nd & 23rd, the Dakota Woodturners hosted a demonstration with Jim Sannerud from St. Paul, MN. Jim provided an excellent demonstration on his ideas and techniques on woodturning and beyond. His demonstrations provided the participants with a new perspective on how “old world needs” can provide us with creativity today.

Over the two day demonstration, I heard many comments “that idea alone was worth the time and money”. Many members also said they very much enjoyed Jim’s approach to his demonstration, which did not focus solely on the fine details of turning but rather more on the form and embellishments that can be done after the piece is off the lath.

For me, Jim’s ideas and views of the turning world stirred a host of ideas and excitement in me on what I can apply to my turning. However, I’m not ready to give up my sandpaper yet (you had to be there). The form and function of Jim’s work have inspired me to challenge myself to incorporate more art into what I consider “functional turnings” (i.e. bowls, platters, and boxes) and work with color and others embellishments. I don’t believe my finished turnings will go back to the rustic hand tooled look; however, I will certainly try to incorporate what I learned during the demonstrations.

One last item from the weekend demonstration, on behalf of the Dakota Woodturners, I would like to say “Thank You” to Duey and Char Marthaller for their hosting Jim while he was in town for the symposium (I know they made it a special stay in Bismarck for Jim and he even was treated to Char’s top secret pickled beets). I also want to thank Duey for his time he took in putting this demonstration together; it is a significant effort to work through all of the details for an event such this.

Next month’s meeting on November 13th, will be at the usual time and place and the demonstration will be on Deep Hallowing. If you have hallowing tools that you want to talk about, help with or work with bring them to the meeting.

Also in November, the Dakota Woodturners will be demonstrating at ACME Electric. The dates for the demonstration are November 19th and 20th. I will have more details and a demo time slot sign-up sheet at the November meeting.

It is time to get out to the shop and try to put some of those great ideas from Jim into actual form. “Keep the Chips and Ribbons Flying” and do it safely.