

Symposium Dos & Don'ts

The Dakota Woodturners Hands-on Symposiums is in just a couple weeks and preparations have been occurring for the past several months. Now is the time to make sure you are ready to get the most out of the symposium. The following information may help you in that preparation and provide you with a few ideas to make this symposium a great success for you and your fellow turners.

First and the most important item is **Safety**. Don't forget to bring you eye protection e.g. safety glasses, face shield, or goggles. Another safety item is a dust mask, while heavy sanding is not recommended during the symposium, there will be some sanding and obviously the generation of wood dust during the turning process will occur. Also don't forget about the dust mask during the sharpening process, the grinding of tools generates grinding stone dust, which is particularly hazardous to the lungs. One last thing on dust, please don't bring in exotic woods to turn. Numerous folks have allergies to exotic wood and that would be the last thing we want is for someone to have a problem from the dust.

An often forgotten safety aspect to woodturning is ensuring well sharpened tools. It almost seems counter intuitive, but a sharp tool is much safer to use then one that is dull, which requires much more force and effort to use. So, be sure your tools are sharp and ready to go. If you need help sharpening your tools, ask one of the other club members for assistance and avoid having the demonstrator take up his time sharpening your tools (this will only take away time he can spend helping others on the actual projects).

One other Safety Tip is to ensure the safe carrying and storage of tools during the symposium. Don't carry or store your tools in a bucket or other container with the tips of the tools sticking up in the air, one slip and fall and you may become a pin cushion. Also, when walking around the demonstration room with a tool in your hands, be aware of where that sharp tip is. There will be a lot of folks moving from their lathe to the grinder and back and an inadvertent turn or bump could result in a bad situation.

New for this year's symposium, we will move the demonstrators from room to room and not the participants. This will allow each of you that bring in your own lathe to stay with your lathe and equipment. It will also allow the herding of only three folks around vs. trying to herd of a bunch of cats like all of you. So, when you arrive at the symposium, seek out Ron Day and he will guide you to the right room to set up your equipment, this will ensure that we have an even split of attendees in each room.

Please be courteous to the other attendees and demonstrators (not hard for this bunch). Please avoid interjecting too much, each person has their way of doing a project and folks are attending the symposium to see and hear how the demonstrator does the project, not necessarily how you would do it. However, don't hesitate to ask questions. The best way to learn is if you're engaged in the program. Also, you paid good money to attend, so get your questions answered.

One last item, if you have any questions on what to bring or need for the symposium, please give Ron Day a call at (701) 223-6756 or any of the E-board members.