

## Activity Information and Reminders

The Virginia Symposium will occur again this year and will be held the first weekend in November, at the Greenfield Education and Training Center in Daleville, VA more information can be found at [www.virginiawoodturners.org](http://www.virginiawoodturners.org).

The 2006 Annual Fairfax 4-H Fair is scheduled for August 4-6, 2006. As in the past, this event will be held at the Frying Pan Park, Fairfax, Va. They anticipate that the 2006 event will be one of the best ever. They tell us that our participation in previous fairs was key to their success through the offering of demonstrations by the Capital Area Woodturners. According to previous reports, this activity is very appealing to families who attend the fair. Please contact Frank Stepanski (540) 720-4202 if you would like to volunteer to demonstrate.

### **“Well I’d Like To See It, Just Don’t Have Time” by Richard Sherwood**

As always there was a lot of information in the 11 rotations that occurred at the Symposium. You could see how to do spiral spindle work, segmented bowls, turn a pen or do multi-axis turnings. These all had a lot of interest and large audiences. One of the sessions that was attended by no more than 15 people was the session that “yeah, everybody needs but I want to see these other things”. This was the session on shop safety. The speaker for this session was Dr. Morton Kasdan. Dr Kasdan is a plastic surgeon, practicing in Louisville, who deals with injuries sustained by workers and crafts people. During the presentation he showed several really graphic photographs of people who have been injured by chain saws, objects flying off a lathe and several other injuries that are too gruesome to discuss. What I want to do is just give you some reminders that he stated during his presentation. The first one has to do with safety indirectly. He has had good luck with wiping a little Armourall on the visor of his face shields. This removes the stuff that gets on them and keeps it from accumulating. He then used the opportunity to recommend that whenever you are turning, you should have a face shield on. We saw a picture of someone who had the wood fly apart and one of the screws from the faceplate fly into the turner’s eye.

Chain saws; Don’t defeat the safety devices or remove the anti-kickback apparatus. The injuries that he has had to address have all resulted from someone removing safety mechanisms.

Oneida, <http://www.oneida-air.com/> is a good source of information to address the collection of dust in our shops. There are several links that address shop safety on this website. One is the link for safety issues in general is <http://www.oneida-air.com/tech/safety.htm>. Another has to do with general technical issues, <http://www.oneida-air.com/tech/main.htm>. This information is important due to the potential problems that come from inhalation of dust particles. Some of the woods that cause problems for many people, even if not especially sensitive to wood dust include cedar, yew and rosewood but there are many other species that also present problems. He recommended doing a web search on the phrase “wood dust” and spend some time looking at the issues and seeing how you can deal with the dust issues in your shop.

On another topic, I also attended the session “Woodturning Tooling Materials”. This was a presentation by a person who works in the steel industry. The main issue that I got out of his presentation was that for woodturning tools, high speed steel is the best all-around steel for our purposes. If you want more information you could check out his company’s website at [www.crucibleservice.com](http://www.crucibleservice.com). Toughness and wear resistance are the two issues for tool steel and the reason HSS is good for our use is that good HSS goes through at least three annealings.

## Safety, Part II

### Safety Topic – Lathe Accidents and Near Misses

I feel the best teacher is experience from near misses and accidents of others. We can learn a lot to protect ourselves. At the November 2005 meeting of the Washington Woodworkers Guild, I reviewed some reported accidents. I found a site at WWA, Accident Search <http://69.64.173.24/Accidents/search.htm> that has useful information categorized by machine type.

Most lathe accidents were related to (1) improved lathe setup, (2) wood flying off the centers, and (3) hand/finger caught between tool-rest and wood. Most reports were submitted by novices/beginners. Apparently experienced woodturners don't have any accidents (or perhaps too embarrassed to report them in a public forum). Here is a summary of some incidents – hope they will help you in understanding how to be safe. Clearly some of the safety rules mentioned by Don Riggs in their Nov 05 Newsletter apply.

- Person marked centers on wood, then mounted 4"x4" board, started up, and the board flew out of the lathe causing severe head injury – 18 stitches to upper lip, visit to the dentist, and plastic surgery. Learning: Wear face shield, and stand to side when starting for first time.
- Person finished turning a small piece of wood, reached over to sand it, and shirt sleeve caught on spurs of center. Fortunately it was a low powered lathe resulting in only a bruised wrist. Learning: watch loose clothing; ensure power off switch is easily accessible.
- Student put hand on a rotating piece resulting in a pinched palm and a chunk of skin out of the heel of the hand. Learning: Don't touch piece while running, especially with tool-rest in place.
- Persons forgot to remove the pry bar (used to remove Morse taper drive) and tommy bars from scroll chuck before starting lathe, resulting in flying metal.
- Person was turning a burl with the lathe running too fast. Chisel caught on wood resulting in the burl breaking up – half in ceiling and half just missing his head.
- Person was turning a 6"x10" blank and the block came off the lathe striking him in the head. Lathe was running too fast.
- Person was turning a glued up piece which flew apart and embedded in wall behind. Although person suggests glue should set for a few days, the real issue could have been an improper center.
- Person had a friend set up a new lathe. They mounted a glued-up 16"x16"x20" block of maple, started the lathe with the block immediately flying off breaking the tool-rest and embedding in the cinder block wall. The new lathe was improperly set at 3,000 RPMs rather than the 300 RPMs they thought the lathe was set up for.

If nothing else, these examples illustrate the need to wear face protection, stand to side when starting up the lathe, running at appropriate low speeds, and never sand with the tool-rest in place.

Thanks to Fred Grosse and Washington Woodworkers Guild for permission to include this article here as it goes well with the article on page 6.