

Woodworkers Showcase 2008

More Than Just Turning

by Kurt Hertzog

The seventeenth annual Woodworkers Showcase 2008 was held on Saturday and Sunday, April 5–6, at the Saratoga Springs City Center in Saratoga Springs, New York. This annual event, sponsored by the Northeastern Woodworkers Association, provides an opportunity for artisans to display their work in handmade furniture, woodturning, carving, scroll sawing, and many other areas. Attendees can learn from their peers, and participate in free seminars presented by nationally known guest woodworkers as well as local artisans. There was a total of 48 hours of classes available.

The Adirondack Woodturners Association, the Scrollers Guild, and the Carvers Guild provided continuous demonstrations of lathe, scroll saw, and carving techniques.

The Toy Factory was another popular, continuing feature, which demonstrated several tools and techniques to children attending the show. The kids were then allowed to produce small wooden toys while they were there.

Following are some highlights from the Woodworkers Showcase 2008:



The Saturday and Sunday show usually draws 4000 visitors, and one year drew nearly 8000. It is a quality show with galleries, a trade show, free classes, and plenty of woodworking demos for virtually every woodworking interest.



One of the Showcase themes was Adirondack Furniture. Here is one of the unique pieces in that style.



Johannes Michelsen, the hat man, provided an ongoing demonstration of turning his signature cowboy hats in the trade show area.



The show has an area for turners, carvers, scrollers, training, and more. All of the areas feature displays, as well as hands-on opportunities.



In keeping with their educational mission, the NWA has a hands-on work area for the youngsters. Here, staffed by volunteers and using donated materials, kids can make their own toolbox and take it home with them.



For the budding turners, there is an area with one-on-one coaching for the newcomer to turn and take home a free pen.



The gallery included turnings, musical instruments, tables, chairs, miniatures, toys, wallhangings, clocks, watercraft, snowmobiles, and more. In all, there were over 400 pieces

on display, all crafted of wood. Though the show is billed as the Woodworkers Showcase and draws a huge number of furniture-oriented woodworkers, there is also a big display of woodturnings.



A turned and pierced lidded box by Paul Petrie.

Totally Turning is another regional symposium put on by the Adirondack Woodturners Association and traditionally has been held each year in October in Albany, New York. This year the two events will merge and be held in Saratoga Springs, New York, on March 28-29, 2009. Additional information about this year's events can be seen by accessing either website at www.totallyturning.com or www.nwawoodworkingshow.org.



One of the larger pieces on display was a deep, hollowed vessel that was carved and painted by John Franklin.

Kurt Hertzog

Kurt Hertzog is a turner who enjoys the entire continuum of woodturning, from making his own turning tools to photographing his finished turnings. Turning for the last ten years, he has intentionally kept his turnings diverse in an effort to keep exploring. A frequent demonstrator and instructor on all facets of woodturning, he particularly enjoys teaching sharpening, workholding, and advanced penmaking. His woodworking interests also include flat work. He is the current webmaster of two AAW chapters, past president of the WNYWoodturners 2, one of the five council members of the Pen Makers Guild, and past chairman of the Rochester Woodworkers Society. You can see examples of his work at www.kurthertzog.com, www.penmakersguild.com, or in the member galleries section of www.wnywoodturners.com. You can contact him at kurt@kurthertzog.com.