

Woodturning and the Internet

By Allyn Wasser

The Internet is full of woodturning information if one takes the time to search for it. What follows are a few websites that I have found to be useful and will help you get started with using the internet, if you choose to do so.

Everyone needs to check into the AAW website, (www.woodturner.org). The forum contains useful information and the photos that folks post of their turnings are awesome.

My favorite site for just fun is Sawmill Creek, (www.sawmillcreek.org). The forum is very active and full of photos. You need to register to see the photos using your real name but I have not found this to be a problem. Check out the "Turners Forum" and any of the others that you might like.

www.woodnet.net

This also has an active forum. To get there, click on "forums", then "browse", then on "woodturning".

www.woodturningonline.com

On the left side of the screen, click on "forum" or "projects". This site has numerous project plans shown.

www.woodcentral.com

Click on "message boards", and then "turning". The "articles" section also has a wealth of information on all sorts of wood related items.

www.aroundthewoods.com/index.shtml

Slide down the left side of the screen and again you can find several project plans and a "how to" section.

www.woodturnerruss.com

This is Russ Fairfield's site. Check out his thoughts on design, sanding and finishing.

www.youtube.com

This is a fun site when you have extra time. In the search block enter "woodturning" and you will find over 1000 mini videos on various wood turning topics. Be a little careful and analyze what you see. I have seen some very dangerous practices shown here.

I haven't said much about purchasing wood or tools. Most of us have our favorite places to buy things but I will say a little about EBay. You can find and buy many woodturning items. It is a good place to buy wood, which you can't find locally, although most of the wood sold on EBay is green wood. Be careful because unless you can deal with it, it can readily crack when it hits the dry Colorado air, therefore, I usually only buy dry wood. Be sure to factor in the shipping costs with your bids.

I should also mention www.woodturningvideosplus.com. This is home to Steve Russell's Lathe Talk. This is a free newsletter, which you can sign up for, if you choose. I think it does contain useful information.

Finally, for you pen turners, you might check out www.penturners.org. I am not a pen turner so can't tell you much about this site.

Enjoy the Internet as a tool to help you become a better woodturner. As you find good or helpful websites, feel free to pass them along so others can enjoy them.