

August 2008

The summer is going by fast like always and some things are not going to get done. I was glancing at a publication I had got from Bryce this week and a short article caught my eye. It was a story about a young man working furiously on a cabin in the woods, trying to get it done. He finally stopped working from sheer exhaustion and sat down. An older prospector passed by and said "Trouble with you is you're gettin no satisfaction from the doin. All you can think of is how nice it will be when it is finished. Now, when I build a cabin, I try to get my satisfaction out of picking just the right trees and trimming and fitting each one just right. I don't try to hurry. I try to enjoy what I'm doin. Satisfaction lasts a lot longer if you take it from what you're doin instead of from what you've done."

We can make some great stuff woodturning and the "doin" is as satisfying as the end product. Last week, I spent two days in Minneapolis at a class given by Jimmy Clewes. The class had seven students and we covered a lot of ground. The professionals all have their own way of doing things but they always say: do it your own way. As long as you stick to the basic principals, you have lots of options on getting things done.

I will mention a couple specific things he talked about. First, have a plan before you start a project, but do not hold yourself to exact dimensions and shapes. Let the design evolve as you go to take advantage of unique characteristics of the wood. The second item is: a 1/4 -inch bowl gouge sharpened to a convention grind (not a finger nail grind), will give an excellent finish on any surface. Jimmy does not use the big bowl gouges and he uses the small bowl gouge on almost every project.

We are taking our grand children camping, so we will miss the picnic this year. See you all in September. Hope you are having a great summer.

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