

From: Tony Cortese
Sent: Wed 5/2/2007 4:14 PM
To: rlehrbass@masterplan-inc.com
Subject: Youth Mentoring Woodturning Program

Hello Rodney,

Youth Mentoring Woodturning Program

This program is being supported by the national organization of the AAW and is designed to be implemented by the local chapters. A Youth Turning Program has great potential and could fill the void of, lack of exposure to the craft and art of woodturning often not available to the youth today. The program will provide a foundation of woodturning for youth through education, information and organization leading to the enrichment of their young lives while expanding their minds and promoting self confidence. Ultimately our goal is to have the organization selected self supportive with all the needed equipment and training.

By a directive of the AAW Directors I was asked to implement a Pilot Youth Mentoring Program. I presented this program to my fellow officers of Hands-On Woodturners, a local AAW chapter and they agreed to initiate a program.

The Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch organization was chosen and I contacted the Director of the Crafts Shop, Pete Peterson and outlined the AAWs mission to get our youth interested in this Woodturning Program.

The next step was to visit the facility and give a demonstration to gauge the interest level of the boys. After a positive response was determined and the boys displayed an interest to learn and spend time behind the lathe, a schedule was set up by the Arts and Craft Instructor, Pete Peterson and the local AAW chapter President, Nicholas Di Mona and Tony Cortese, AAW Board Director.

Once a schedule was in place, equipment and supplies needed became the main focus. The problem was soon remedied by informing the Instructor that money was available through the AAW in the form of an EOG (Educational Opportunity Grant). With the direction and help of the local chapter and AAW Director guiding the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch they were able to apply and receive funding for their basic woodturning equipment.

It is our goal, depending on the number of volunteer mentors, to couple two boys with one instructor so that the boys are able to spend a maximum amount of time actually turning wood. Presently we have 5 boys per lathe and give

four classes per day on a bi-monthly schedule. This is recommended in order to maintain a continuing interest and woodturning proficiency.

Projects should be selected for the young turners enabling them to gain confidence and skill levels while experiencing the joy of accomplishment. A gauge of their progression might be measured in a multiple phase certificate program.

PHASE 1 CERTIFICATE should be awarded upon completion of the basic tools skill usage and safety awareness.

PHASE 2 CERTIFICATE Beginners Projects should be awarded upon completion of simple miscellaneous turnings, i.e. pens, tops, honey dippers, weed pots etc.

PHASE 3 CERTIFICATE Intermediate Projects should be awarded upon completion of more difficult projects, i.e. bowls, hollow forms, platters, lidded boxes etc.

This Youth Program is our hope for the future preservation of the craft and art of woodturning.

Tony Cortese, AAW Board Director
Woodturners

Nick DiMona, President Hands-on