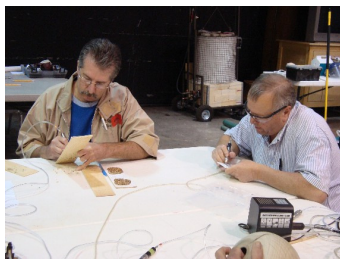


TLC Classes
May 17, 18, 2009
J. Paul Fennell
By Bob Gunther
Photographs by Melissa Gunther

J. Paul Fennell did an all day demo Saturday, May 16, 2009 for CMW at the Folk Art Center. Following this demo, Paul taught two all day hands-on classes.



The Sunday, May 17 class had ten students. It began with a discussion of shape and form then the students made Johnson calipers. These calipers made it possible to measure wall thickness, especially in the hard-to-reach neck areas of the vessels.



Students then turned their own hollow forms using green ambrosia maple. Once the students created pleasing shapes, they hollowed their vessels using a variety of tools achieving a wall thickness of about 1/8 to 3/16 inch. Then the students made jam chucks to reverse the pieces and complete the bases.

Ample blanks were available so that everyone could turn more than one vessel during the class session and take a piece of wood home to turn.

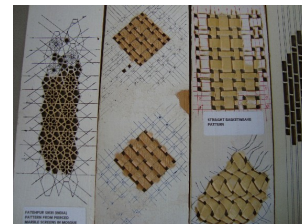


The Monday, May 18 class had a limit of six students.



Paul discussed various aspects of design layout and each student designed patterns that were carved and/or pierced on thin design boards or on vessels that had been previously turned at home and brought to the class. Each student went his own direction with input from Paul at multiple points along the way.

Everyone helped setting up and cleaning up which is much appreciated and necessary. The new casters and handles on the mini lathes made moving them so much easier, safer, and quicker. The new compressor got a workout with the Sunday class blowing shavings out of the hollow forms and the Monday class driving air tools simultaneously.



Everyone enjoyed the classes and took a great deal of information home to use at a later date. Detailed information about tools and cutters was very useful. Paul's suggestions about which cutters to use under a variety of conditions were of special value. The one-on-one hands-on setting of these classes cannot be surpassed.



