

## AAW Best Practices

### Section: (new) **Teaching Woodturning**

#### Paper: **Conducting woodturning training**

When teaching or training new wood turners – adults or youth – there are a few guidelines that will make your teaching/coaching live smoother:

1. Never violate the safety rules – not for a minute!
2. Never take a short cut (in front of a student)
3. Work slowly – work with intention, don't demonstrate your personal competence
4. Body, tool movement are never as dramatic as the student believes – coach them to make all moves BIGGER
5. "Rubbing the bevel, "Pointing the tool," "Opening the flute," etc. are just words until after you get it – avoid using jargon in the beginning
6. Major classroom safety concerns:
  - a. Distraction from other activities and other students
  - b. Working tired at the end of the class period – especially with older adults
  - c. Rushing at the end of class – one last cut never is as good as completing it tomorrow
7. Follow a sequence: start with spindle turning than progress to bowls, and finally end grain
8. Put away the spindle roughing gouge (SRG) before you start bowl turning
9. Teach sharpening early
10. Variable speed lathes should always be set a "0" RPM (especially Reeves Drives lathes)
11. Set up exercises so that all students can started together, no sequential processes in the beginning, then decide on how to end each project section
12. No one should use any power tools without being checked out, no one
13. Shape, tool control, and sanding are all teachable processes
14. Kids sand too much, adults not enough (neither do it correctly or well)
15. Short people – short lathes, tall people – tall lathes make effort to match the student to the best fit lathe
16. Don't forget to teach lathe maintenance also, the student should complete routine steps: cleaning, filing, waxing, lubrication, etc.
17. Don't allow the use of student tools unless they meet the classroom standards
18. Lathe speeds tend to be too slow and cutting speeds (pushing the tool) too fast; increase one and decrease the other for safer, easier turning
19. There is no replacement for "paying your dues" when the frustration sets in provide emotional support also
20. Some key phrases to try out:
  - a. "Allow the wood to cut itself by coming to the tool
  - b. "Dress the edge (of the tool) don't GRIND IT
  - c. "Relax your grip!"
  - d. "Sharpen your tool!"
  - e. "A-B-C-D " (**A**nchor the tool, **R**ub the **B**evel, **R**aise the handle to **C**ut, aim **D**ownhill to the grain)
  - f. "What do you think you should do next?"