



*Journal Of*  
*The North Carolina Woodturners' Association*

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BEHOLD, A NEW LOOK!

Because the NORTH CAROLINA WOODTURNERS are a very special group of people, we feel that you deserve at least a better-than-average newsletter, one that will do more than just let you what the next meeting topic will be. So we call it a JOURNAL and hope to make it live up to what you feel that should mean. We hope that it will contain information that will show that we are trying to live up to the ideals of our association as stated in the PURPOSES section of our BYLAWS. To do this will require a lot of input from you, the members. After all, it's your organization and your JOURNAL. We hope that you will look forward to receiving it each month and will find it worth keeping for the value of its content. We hope that each of you will find some way to be a contributor, get your name in print, and share your thoughts and ideas with the rest of us.

SEPTEMBER -WHEN IT ALL BEGAN

Just one year ago this month, a few of us met at Tony's shop to see if we could get something going. Well, we did, and it went faster and farther than any of us had expected. We have a wonderful place to meet and enough talent to cause others to be envious. Naturally, we have problems. Only the dead have none. Our membership is growing, and our needs are too. With each new member comes the requirement to satisfy his expectations; and with that comes the obligation for him to share his special talents with the rest of us. If we go at it this way, our problems will not be WHAT TO DO but WHEN CAN WE SCHEDULE IT! LET'S DO IT

SEPTEMBER MEETING

This is a special meeting, at a special time, and in a special place. This will be an all-day meeting. It will be held at Rodger Jacobs' studio at Newland, North Carolina. Please note the time schedule and the list of motels that will follow.

The regular meeting date is Saturday, September 14th., but the studio will be open on Friday evening, September 13th. from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm for those who would like to come in to help set up for Saturday. The Saturday schedule is as follows:

9:00a. m. Studio opened - Tour of studio

10:00 A. M. David Sengal will demonstrate turning hollow forms.

12 NOON - 1:30 P. M. Lunch break. Rodger has arranged with a local restaurant for a special eating place for all who want to do that.

1:30 Show and Tell and business

2:00 P. M. Rodger Jacobs will do a complete turning of a salad bowl, inc finish sanding and reverse turning.

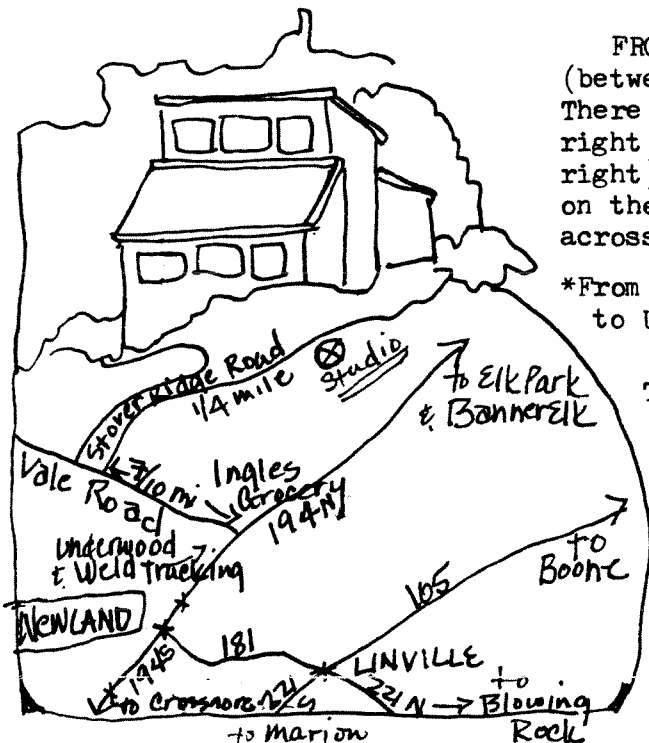
4:00 Questions and answers -Rodger Jacobs and David Sengal.

The following is a list of motels and their distances from Rodgers' studio:

- Shady Lawn Motel and restaurant, Newland, (704) 733-5506 1 mile
- Dixie Motel, Linville, (704) 733-2597 5 miles
- Pineda Motel, Pineda, (704) 733-4979 8 miles
- Holiday Inn, Banner Elk, (704) 893-4571 15 miles

Rodger has offered to help anyone who has questions about tool sharpening. Bring any tools that you want him to sharpen, but be sure that they are clearly marked as YOURS. Also, please remember that the Show and Tell portion of our meetings is most important. BRING SOMETHING YOU HAVE TURNED, NO MATTER HOW CRUDE YOU MAY THINK IT IS!!

Rodger has provided the following map of Newland with directions to his studio:



FROM NEWLAND: Turn left off 194 onto Vale Road (between Underwood & Weld Trucking and Ingles Grocery). There is a left turn lane. Go 7/10 mile and turn right on Stover Ridge Road (first gravel road on the right). Studio is 1/4 mile up the road, first building on the right. Driveway is very steep. You can park across the road and walk up, as parking is limited.

\*From Asheville, take I-40 to Old Fort, exit US70; US 70 to US 221. At Crossnore, turn left on NC 194 to Newland.

\*From Hickory, take I-40 to Morganton. Exit NC 10 Take NC 18 through town to NC 181. Follow NC 181 to Newland. At the light in Newland, turn right on 194

\*From Boone, take 105 South to Linville, turn right on 181. At the light in Newland, turn right on 194

\*From Blowing Rock, take Blue Ridge Parkway south, exit US 221 S at Linville. Go down the mountain, at the traffic light, take NC 181 to Newland. At the traffic light in Newland, turn right on 194.

X traffic lights phone: (704) 733-9819

NOTE Those of you who come up 221 should remember that 194 will come into 221 at Crossnore. Do not turn left here, or you will go to Spruce Pine. Turn left later, where 194 leaves 221. Also, those coming from the Asheville/Hendersonville area can take 19 and 19E through Burnsville and Spruce Pine. Take 194 to Newland after you go through Spruce Pine. From the junction of I-40 and I-26, either of the two routes will take about two hours.

PARKING Rodger's house is across the road from his studio. You may park there. As space is limited, you might wish to car-pool with someone else -save gas too!

ARE YOU REALLY COMING?? If you are, please let Rodger know, either by calling him at (704) 733-9819 or by mail at Rt. 1, Box 575A, Newland, NC 28657. Let him know how many will be coming with you, so we can arrange for everyone to see what goes on.

EDITOR'S NOTE Rodger has a wonderful place. You'll be glad you came!

EXOTIC TURNING STOCK

We have just learned of a local (North Carolina) source for exotic wood in sizes desirable for turning. These exotic woods come mostly from South America. Wesley Blair, of GLOBAL VENEER SALES, INC. is planning to attend our October meeting and bring with him some samples of what they have to offer. Some of these pieces will be included in our raffle at that meeting.

GLOBAL VENEER SALES, INC.  
P. O. Box 5829  
High Point, NC 27262  
(800) 767-5061 (Toll free)

NOTICE FROM THE LIBRARIAN

Many of you have asked us to prepare a bibliography of all the videos and books that we have in our library. We want to do this. Also, as we are approaching the end of our first full year, we need to prepare an inventory of all our materials and equipment. For these reasons, we are asking that all videos and books be returned this month. No books or videos will be checked out until the inventory and bibliography have been completed. Please cooperate by returning whatever you have promptly. Thank you -Mary

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ON LEARNING

By Tony Bradley

Many things we do in life are seemingly difficult at first. Many times we want to admit defeat before we have given adequate time in our endeavor. I could relate many such moments in becoming a Naval pilot, but one event comes even closer to illustrating the point.

During college in 1980, I was given a part-time job with a tool company. I was to braze carbide tips onto steel router bit blanks -actually a silver solder process. My only experience in this area had been thirty years earlier. As I began, I really didn't do badly. My positioning was good, and I made sound joints each time; but my temperature control was terrible. I got the tool or the carbide either too hot or too cold each time and had to fiddle so much that my production rate was poor. About three weeks into the job, a coworker observed me and my technique -or lack of. She asked me to watch her as she held the torch, heated the tool and the carbide, and brought the temperature up to the perfect range where the silver solder was virtually sucked into the space between the tool and the carbide, allowing the carbide to be easily slid to an exact location. It wasn't until the next day on the job that I relaxed, and things dropped into place. Something actually snapped. From that time forward, I was no longer a trainee but a proficient craftsman.

Several times since then, a similar thing has occurred in wood turning. As you relax and change your hold on a tool or change your sharpening technique or vary the angle at which you hold a tool, you transform an unsuccessful attempt into a very gratifying accomplishment. The key to woodturning is -MAKE A LOT OF CHIPS ON THE FLOOR!

# WOODTURNER JR.

## Seven-year-old follows in footsteps in parents' shop

By Bo Petersen  
Gazette Staff Reporter

BELMONT — Seven-year-old Jesse Blackburn may be the youngest woodturner in North Carolina. But he means business.

Mom's and dad's business, of course.

"He's already told us, when we get old, he's taking over," said Suzanne Blackburn, his mom.

The Blackburns contract woodwork, anything from restoring an old Victrola phonograph cabinet to creating a bedroom set. What began as a hobby for dad Bill Blackburn has become a full-time family business.

Blackburn loves to turn wood on a lathe, chiseling intricate patterns into stair rails, table legs or bedposts. Mrs. Blackburn refinishes.

As an infant, Jesse lay in a crib in the garage, watching dad. As a 1-year-old, Jesse would crawl to the wood stacks, rubbing his hand across the grain.

As a toddler, Jesse began studying his parents' work. Before long, he was at the lathe, re-creating chairs and candleholders in miniature.

"Other people think it's hard to make little stuff," Jesse said. "It's neater.

"I just keep watching them and learning new stuff, and then I do it."



Jeff Melton/The Gazette

### Seven-year-old Jesse turns out miniatures of his parents' work.

Nowadays, Jesse lectures Dad about putting on goggles and other safety features. He occasionally corrects Dad on chisel angles. He scavenges hardwood outside, getting pieces from the trash can.

"He doesn't waste one inch," Bill Blackburn said. "He says, 'We can turn that, Dad.'"

Often restoring antiques, the Blackburns must work meticulously — such as matching a single knob to the other drawer knobs on a cabinet.

"She knows what I'm going to do. I know what she's going to do," Bill Blackburn said. "I ask her to stay up

in the house and she says, 'Fine, I want to, anyway.'"

Attention to detail got Jesse his first job. Dad turned a finial for an interior designer. A finial is a capping ornament, such as the ornaments found atop lamp shades.

After Dad turned his, Jesse turned a matching miniature. The designer wanted the miniatures for door knobs.

So, at 7 years old, Jesse became something of a junior partner in "The Woodcrafter" — a coup he shrugs off.

"I just wanted to bring in some dollars," Jesse said.

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION

If you still have your 1990 CRAFT SUPPLIES USA catalog, take a look at the picture of Rude Osolnik on the front cover. Then look back at the masthead of this journal. There's Rude again, right in the center of things as he was when we had him demonstrating for us last January. It seems fitting that we keep him with us in this special way. In June, I told him of my plan to use this picture in this way, and he liked the idea. We thank him for honoring us in this way.

Thanks also to Gail Bachand for the sketch, to her friend Eva Langston for the original computer graphics, and especially to Rhodes Batson for