



Journal Of
The North Carolina Woodturners' Association

VOL. 2 NO. 4

April, 1992

Editor: Ken Bachand, Rt. 1, Box 192-C, Brevard, NC 28712

"The opportunity to meet and work with many of the world's leading turners...has led to a profound understanding of the art as well as the craft of woodturning." -Ray Key

And this "profound understanding" came forth in a most impressive way at our March meeting as Ray Key dazzled us all with amazing skill. His masterful skill was augmented by his informative commentary and delightful humor. The approval rating of 9.3 on a scale of 0 to 10 is rather convincing evidence that over eighty members and guests certainly indicates satisfaction. Most of us went away with a burning resolve to attempt a more challenging project or to invest in a new lathe! All in-all, we were inspired to reach out and up toward that which we may have thought was unattainable.

Along with the numerous favorable comments turned in on the program evaluation forms were several suggestions regarding the video camera location, the sound system, and the difficulty of seeing the demonstration from the back rows. These and other suggestions will be given full attention by the board of directors in an effort to make our programming the best that it can possibly be.

Those of us who attended Rude Osolnik's demonstration last year will certainly recognize that we did a better job this time. The lathe was much quieter, we had a video monitor and a remote PA system. We now need to improve the way we use these things, and we will. We will also do something about the problem of seeing what's going on.

Our meeting place can get a little cold in winter, and it can get a little hot in summer; but it's so much better than what some other associations have that we can accept the slight discomforts and dress accordingly. After all, it is costing us nothing!

If growth is an indicator of success, then we must be doing most things right. A few did not renew membership this year, but new memberships are outnumbering dropouts nearly two to one. The net result is that we are now approaching ninety members -nearly double our number of a year ago.

In addition to the video and sound equipment that we have acquired, the board of directors will consider purchasing a top quality lathe that should extend our horizons by making possible a greater variety of demonstrations. We will probably be bringing a recommendation before the membership at the April meeting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The March meeting with Ray Key was the quintessential woodturner's experience. The stated purpose of NCW, "...to promote an interest in woodturning for persons of all levels of competence, whether they are beginners or advanced professionals; to provide information, education, instruction, and hands-on experience for all members; to

encourage creativity and to explore new methods and techniques for advancing woodturning as a creative craft and a unique art form..." was evidenced at this meeting.

The new PA system was a big help to us hearing-impaired folks and made it possible for our demonstrator to impart more useful information that might not otherwise have been heard by all.

Our next club priority is to encourage everyone to participate in SHOW AND TELL regardless of their level of skill. I have the first piece off of my new Nova Chuck, entitled "LET THE WOOD COME TO THE TOOL." It has three flaws in it, but what a learning experience! I hope that each of you will bring at least one turning to the next meeting. -Tony

IN MEMORY OF ONE OF OUR OWN

We were recently informed by his wife that Edsel Hall died on March 8th. He suffered a massive heart attack while working in his yard. He is survived by his wife Charlotte and five children.

Edsel had been a locksmith for many years and had more recently been a quality control specialist at Fruit of the Loom in Rockingham. In addition to woodturning, Edsel was an accomplished woodcarver. He was additionally Past Master and Certified Lecturer in the Masonic Lodge 495 of Rockingham. Edsel was a Charter Member of NCW. We extend our most sincere sympathy to Charlotte and all of Edsel's family.

IT ALL BEGAN WITH POPULAR MECHANICS!

Jerry Friesner, who will be our featured demonstrator on April 11th., was born on a farm in Missouri in 1934. In 1939, his father bought, for a couple of chickens and a small amount of cash, a year's subscription to Popular Mechanics, in hope that it would encourage Jerry's older brother to become more mechanically minded in respect to maintaining the farm machinery. It was Jerry, however, who became more interested in the magazines, pouring over them endlessly with particular interest in the sections dealing with homemade tools.

Down in the basement were a workbench, a homemade, pedal-powered jigsaw, and a lathe. Jerry doesn't remember ever using the jigsaw, but he did have a go at the lathe. It had been made from old machinery parts and was treadle powered. Because he could not reach the treadle that powered the lathe and the spindle at the same time, he had little success with it. When he was ten years old, his father bought a "real" lathe for him from Montgomery-Ward, which he still has. A few years ago he bought an old, flat-bed Craftsman lathe, which he feels is far superior to the present-day Sears lathes.

Jerry's interest in mechanical things led him into a career as an industrial arts teacher. He taught at the high school level for four years before moving up to the college level. In 1962, he came to what was then Western Carolina College, now Western Carolina University. He taught woodworking in the Fine and Industrial Arts Departments. The program is now called Industrial and Engineering Technology. His program includes furniture manufacturing, metals technology (consisting of welding, foundry, and some metallurgy), and other courses from time to time.

At our April 11th. meeting Jerry will demonstrate offset spindle turni
He will do a basic spoon foot, such as is common on some early
American table designs and on Queen Ann table legs. He will do an
offset round tenon at the upper end of turned table and stool legs.

In his earlier years at Western, Herb Quarles, one of our professional
turners, was one of Jerry's students. Around that time, they were
making a Danish influence chair which had an arm that was flat on top
rounded on the bottom, and tapering to a round tenon at the back end
where it joined the rear leg of the chair. The entire shape was done
on the lathe. Jerry will try to duplicate this design as part of his
demonstration.

Jerry is a life member of the Experimental Aircraft Association and
was for several years editor of their chapter newsletter. His wife,
Christine, is also an instructor at WCU.

Jerry feels that his program at Western, which presents only the
basics of woodturning to his students does not present him with the
greater challenge that he feels is necessary to develop the
creative and artistic aspects of the craft; however, his
credentials would indicate otherwise. Every aspect of woodturning has
its own unique challenges, and Jerry's program is sure to open
our eyes to techniques that most of us have little or no
experience with. It will be a fine show!

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS

Included in this mailing is a copy of proposed ARTICLE XV of the
bylaws of the North Carolina Woodturners' Association. It is required
that fifteen days notice be given prior to voting on amendments to the
bylaws and that provision be made for mail-in ballots. Please
read carefully the proposed article and be prepared to vote on it at
the April meeting. If you wish to vote but cannot attend the meeting,
a mail-in ballot has been enclosed for you. Vote YES or NO, sign
the ballot, and return it before April 11th.

We are acquiring equipment that will belong to the association for
the use of its members, and we need to have proper provision for
this in our bylaws.

If you have not been given a copy of the bylaws, please ask for them
at the next meeting. We ran out of copies several months ago and have
now gotten enough to go around.

PLEASE MAIL IN YOUR BALLOT IF YOU WILL NOT BE AT THE APRIL MEETING!

MORE ON THE SUBJECT OF SHARPENING

The following paragraphs were taken from page 33 of the book
Turning Wood With Richard Raffan with the kind permission of the
publisher, The Taunton Press.

" Sharp tools are essential and much easier and safer to use than blunt
ones. Any woodworker must not only be able to identify a good edge and
whether a sharp tool can be made sharper but must also be able to
decide when a tool is sharp enough for a particular job. Obviously,

an edge should be free of chips or nicks and should not reflect light, but there is more to it than that. The shape and quality of the edge depends on the tool being used and the species and quality of wood being turned. An edge of ultimate sharpness, with the metal tapering away to nothing, as on a razor blade or cabinetmaker's chisel, may not produce the cleanest cut or be best for roughing wood on the lathe.

I do not subscribe to the widely publicized and accepted sharpening rigmarole involving successive grades of oilstones, waterstones, strops and so on. These techniques are fine for carving and joinery, but excessive for woodturning. Turning tools are called upon to remove enormous amounts of wood relatively quickly, which can dull even the finest edge. There is no point in doing five minutes of sharpening for thirty seconds of cutting. And the edge you so meticulously achieve might not be superior to that which the grinder can produce. Skillful grinding, allowing you to use the tool directly from the wheel, is the answer."

Raffan prefers dry grinding to wet grinding; and, in somewhat of a contradiction to the recommendations of most authorities, he uses silicon carbide rather than aluminum oxide grinding wheels for his high speed steel tools. He has two grinders, one for his carbon steel tools and the other for his high speed steel tools. Both grinders have a 35 grit wheel for rough shaping the tools and an 80 grit wheel for grinding the final edge.

We might conclude that what works best for you is what you should use. If you are still grinding on a gray aluminum oxide (general purpose) wheel, and you like the results, don't run out and buy a new one just because someone else has one. Herb Quarles, one of our professional turners, uses the standard gray wheel that came with his grinder and gets excellent results.

Getting the right shape, in addition to getting a good edge, is the other half of the sharpening equation, especially as it concerns gouges. For those of you who liked the gouge sharpening jig that was demonstrated at the February meeting, we will try to draw it up and put it in a future issue of the Journal.

And I am sure we haven't heard the last on this subject! -K. B.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to close this issue of the Journal by recognizing two North Carolina businesses who contributed items for the raffle at our March 14th. meeting. They are

WOODWORKERS' SUPPLY OF NORTH CAROLINA, Graham, NC

THE WOODWORKING SHOP, Hickory, NC

Let's show our appreciation by giving them consideration when shopping for equipment, tools, and supplies.

NOTE

This is to remind all new members that we always meet on the second Saturday of each month at 1:00 p. m. unless otherwise notified.