



# *North Carolina* **WOODTURNER**

**Journal of the North Carolina Woodturners Association**  
*A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners*

Volume 12, Number 4

April 2002



Ambrosia Maple - woodburned and painted  
by J.D. Reinhardt

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

By John Winslett

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Our March meeting featured Tom Crabb of Richmond, Virginia, demonstrating turning on the bias - a distinctive method requiring not only skill but great care! Don Oetjen graciously reviews this interesting technique for us this month.

I regret to report former member and a skilled turner, Pat Campbell of Tryon, passed away this month following a long bout with cancer.

The Mint Museum, Charlotte, has asked for a turning demonstration and instruction day sometime in the spring or fall as an outside event. The time element favors the fall. We would supply lathes, tools and instructors. Before we commit we will insist the museum provide liability insurance coverage. More later.

John Uteck is doing a fine job with production of our Journal. A color cover was included for the last issue and since it was well received he is exploring the cost for more color. Hopefully we will know by the April meeting if we can afford the change.

Anyone interested in demonstrating at a future meeting please see Dwight or Ric. Remember, we will have 5 member demos this year.

The AAW National Woodturning Symposium is to be held June 28 -30 in Providence, RI. National and International turners will be featured in multiple demonstrations all 3 days. To receive member rates, reservations must be made by May 15, 2002.

Our own Ric Erkes will demonstrate some of his carving and foot treatment techniques at our April meet starting at 1:00 PM. The Board will meet starting at 11:00 AM. Hope to see all members.

John

**Library News** - by Mary Bachand

At the time of this writing, I plan to be visiting my mother in Louisiana on the weekend of our April meeting to help her celebrate her birthday. Also, at this time Mother is seriously ill in the hospital and the future is very touchy. So-if I'm not at the meeting, please be kind to Gloria Hutchins as she has agreed to handle the library for me.

**Coming Events** - by Dwight Hartsell and Ric Erkes

April 13 at 1:00 pm will feature Ric Erkes who has several things he wants to present. Ric will be discussing various techniques he uses to embellish the rims and feet of bowls. More specifically, he will be talking about the laying out of the design and using primarily a simple Roto-Zip tool as his carving device. There will also be some discussion of how he reverse turns a bowl to gain full access to the bottom and the use of the Oneway Wolverine system for sharpening. His plan is to share as many ideas and tips as he can fit into a three hour session. In the event that he has to work, Scott Ollis will fill in for him.

May 11th from 10:00 to 4:00 will feature Mr. Bobby Clemmons, the current AAW President. I am sure that he will have a good demonstration and there will be more details in next month's newsletter.

June 8th from 1:00 to 4:00 will feature Talmadge Murphy who will show us how to do a simple multi-axis turning.

June 28 - 30th - AAW Symposium in Providence, Rhode Island

July 13th from 1:00 to 4:00 will be our own Sam McDowell who will demonstrate turning a vessel and if there is time permitting, Jean Dampier will explain a tool that he designed and made.

August 10th 1 - 4. Dick Nielson will turn a sphere.

September 14th. John Hill will demonstrate vacuum chucking.

October 12th and November 9th are open for suggestion and demonstrators. If you have something you want to see, please let Dwight or Ric know.

December 14th will be the Christmas Party and Auction.

**Member News** - by Mary Bachand

Please welcome Danny Hall of Grassy Creek, NC. I am very pleased with the way everyone adjusted to their new number on the back of their name tag. There were only 2 empty slots when I checked at the end of the clean-up. I received several "suggestions" that I publish the numbers of the empty spaces but I won't. Just remember what a mess we used to have with the name tags before Ron Mechling made our new box. Now we are organized!

**NEXT MEETING: APRIL 13th at 1:00 pm**

**Internet Turning Forums** by David Propst

The Internet has greatly expanded the resources available for woodturners. There are online retail catalogs, personal and professional websites full of information, and forums where you can get answers to almost any question almost immediately. In my experience, woodturners are some of the nicest and most helpful folks around, and the turners I have met on the web are no exception! Here are three question and answer forums that I recommend. Be careful though, turning sites on the web can almost be as addictive as turning itself!

**The Badger Pond Power Tool Forum**

(www.wwforum.com): Badger Pond is the friendliest place on the web. The power tool forum is not dedicated to woodturning; however there are a number of turners participating and the number is growing daily. To inspire and brag, you can easily post pictures of your work. It is a great place to learn and offer advice with a strong sense of community. I began turning because of inspiration and encouragement I received from folks on this forum.

**Woodcentral Turning Forum**

(www.woodcentral.com): Woodcentral is owned and moderated by Ellis Wallentine, former editor of American Woodworking magazine. The turning forum is dedicated to woodturning and has a strong regular group of turners who frequent it. The turning forum is a relatively new addition to Woodcentral and messages are posted here at a slower, more relaxed pace than other forums.

**Rec.Crafts.Woodturning Newsgroup**

(Accessible through your newsreader program or at www.googlegroups.com): I avoid newsgroups because they are un-moderated and can get hostile at times, however I have found this group to be a wonderful exception. A number of top-notch turners post here and the information shared is very good and friendly.

These three sites are just the tip of the iceberg of turning information available on the web. There are specialized groups such as for pens or Stubby owners. I'll share more on these next month. In the meantime a great place to start your exploration or cyber-turning is Alan Green's *Woodturning Reference And Information Site* at <http://green-alan.tripod.com>.

**Other Websites of Interest**

[www.woodturningontheweb.com](http://www.woodturningontheweb.com)

**International Wood Collectors Society**

[www.woodcollectors.org](http://www.woodcollectors.org)

**John C. Campbell Folk School**

**Course Notes (part 2)** - by Jerry Ostrander

Fundamentals of Hollow Turning, Sept. 23-29, 2001.  
Instructor: Larry Hasiak; Assistant: Bobby Clemons

Turning Christmas Ornaments:

1. Begin with a block of wood that is 2½" x 2½" x 7".
2. Mount it on the chuck.
3. Turn the wood until you have the shape of a cylinder.
4. Make a tenon on the tail stock end.
5. Reverse the stock - - that is, remove the wood, and mount it in the chuck using the tenon you just made.
6. Complete turning the cylinder and make a tenon on the other end.
7. On the tailstock end, shape the ball leaving enough wood on the shaft end for support.
8. Cut the ball in half with a thin parting tool - the first ¼" of the cut should be angled to help positioning later. Before parting through, make a horizontal repositioning/re-aligning line on the ball with a pencil.
9. Hollow out the lower half of the ball, leaving it ¼" thick.
10. Remove the lower half of the ornament, and put the top half of the ball into the chuck.
11. Hollow out the top of the ornament.
12. Glue the bottom and top halves together, using the pencil mark to reposition.
13. At this point, cut your final to the desired shape and finish shaping the ball.
14. Leave some thickness on the top half of the ball for stability.
15. You can cut shallow V lines to cover up the glue joint. You can burn these lines with a stainless steel fishing line.
16. Sand the ornament to the desired finish.
17. Finish the top half shaft, sand it, part off the ornament.
18. If you desire to add decorative colors, use colored pens to apply the color before parting off the ornament.

**2002 AAW Symposium**

**June 28th - 30th, Providence, Rhode Island Collaborative Challenge**

If you have any ideas, designs, etc. for the collaborative project, please see a board member.

**Demonstrator Review** - by Don Oetjen

Most turning demonstrations show the audience some skillful method or technique for creating or decorating a familiar shape. Tom Crabbs' demo showed his method for creating unusual and generally unfamiliar shapes. His skill is in turning a cube or a cylinder on the bias so that 2 or 3 points are prominent on the top rim, and or on the base. A close look at some of the accompanying photographs will be better than a word description. In fact, a word description will not properly convey the complexity of the design. Keep in mind that these shapes were turned from a single piece of wood. The base is integral, not added on.



Tom lives in Richmond VA and is recently retired from a furniture company as a design engineer of what are called "point of purchase" displays for retail stores. One day while still at work, he twirled a small cube holding it between his fingers at opposite corners. He was able to see what possibilities existed for new shapes. He clearly has an imagination and a spatial sense of what's possible that escapes most of us. As far as Tom knows he independently developed this idea for bias turning. He has written 2 books and many articles on woodworking and design and has demonstrated numerous times including at the AAW St Paul symposium.



This review cannot be a how-to-do-it article. The methods are just too complex. It can, however, serve to remind a reader about a few basics of this type of turning. Tom says that starting with a cube is probably easier in that the concepts are easier to understand. It is critical that the starting geometric shape measurements be very accurate. A cube must be a true cube. All bias turning starts by driving a flattened corner with the live center in the exact opposite corner or edge. He uses a 4 prong drive with an adjustable



point and drills a hole for the point to assure accurate positioning and good contact with the prongs. Since there is a lot of air to turn it is essential that light controlled cuts are taken and that the turning speed be moderate, say 500 rpm. Any gouge can be used although Tom uses one that looks more like a small roughing gouge than it does like one with a fingernail grind. He uses both wings, seemingly at random, moving up or down the form as he feels is needed. It certainly is not the classic way to use a gouge but it works very efficiently for him.

A bias turned cube will produce 3 points and a bias turned cylinder will produce 2 points. The ratio of the diameter of a cylinder to its length is important. The diameter should be only a bit greater than its length, say 6 1/2" to 6".



It is possible to power sand the rotating points using a 6" auto body grinder with regular sanding disks by holding the grinder positioned firmly against the torso so that the face of the disk is just "kissed" as the points come around. This way there is no rounding off of the trailing edges.

This demonstration was riveting. We were introduced to turning we haven't seen before. If you want to try bias turning I suggest you borrow the Clubs' video for detailed information on how to proceed. Thank you, Tom.



# NCW GALLERY

Photos by Bonner Guilford

*Spatled Maple*



*White Pine*



*Ambrosia Maple*



Ron Mechling



*Ambrosia Maple*



*Ambrosia Maple*



*Ambrosia Maple*

Sam McDowell

*Pine*



Steve Millwood



*Burl*

Scott Ollis

# NCW GALLERY

Photos by Bonner Guilford

*Maple Burl*



*Manzita Root*



Dwight Hartsell

*Sweet Gum*



*Sweet Gum*



Edgar Ingram

*Maple Burl*



*Cherry with walnut rim*



Roy Fisher

*Barriger Log*



*Walnut*



Don Oetjen

Harold Lineberger

# NCW GALLERY

Photos by Bonner Guilford



*Oak Burl*



*Oak Burl*



*Birdseye Maple*



*Walnut*



*Walnut*  
*"Soaring III"*

Don Olsen



*Cherry*



*Ambrosia Maple*

C.A. Schindler

Remember, our meetings are always at 1:00 on the second Saturday of the month at Klingspor's Woodworking Shop in Hickory unless otherwise noted in the Journal.

**NEXT MEETING: APRIL 13th at 1:00pm**

**Challenge Project Entries** - Color (i.e., stained, painted, dyed), woodburning, and/or inlay.



Ambrosia Maple - woodburned & painted by J.D. Reinhardt



Maple Burl with woodburned accents by Ron Mechling



Beech, Rosewood, and Corian by Dwight Hartsell

**Challenge Projects**

April: mixed mediums; i.e., wood/glass, wood/bone, wood/metal.  
May: Natural edge bowls.

June: Carving ; i.e., feet, rims, lids, pedestals.  
July: Lidded vessels.  
August: Back-to-school; i.e., something for teachers or students.

September: Best use of spalted wood.  
October: Halloween theme.  
November: Thanksgiving or Christmas theme.  
December: annual Christmas party - auction and gallery.

**Member Classifieds**

Porter Cable Router Model 690. 1 1/2 HP.1/4 & 1/2 inch collets. Very little use. Set of 1/4" shank HSS bits included. \$100. Makita 16" Resaw Bandsaw. 2 1/2" blade(2), 1" blade(1). Heavy duty. 12" vertical capacity. Used very seldom. To settle estate. \$600. John Winslett 828 859-9863.



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