



North Carolina **WOODTURNER**

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

Volume 12, Number 11

November 2002



October 2002 - Challenge Project Winner
Ambrosia Maple
by J. D. Reinhardt

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By John Winslett

Our October meeting was a special pleasure by having such a skilled artist as Bill Johnston showing his off-center techniques as well as the demo of hollowing his beautiful Christmas ornament. We will be auctioning a beauty at our Christmas Party.

Klingspor's show was a very successful and well-attended event. Many visited our booth and they seemed to enjoy watching our turning demo. We received 7 inquiries on membership and turning help. In addition the Fisch factory rep told me we sold 3 lathes for him. I want to thank our members for their participation and hope I don't forget anyone -- Jerry Ostrander, Jerry Keys, Ron Mechling, Ric Erkes, David Kaylor, Edgar Ingram, Don Olsen, C.A. Schindler, David Propst, Wayne Hutchens, Michael and John Ehlen, Scott Ollis, and me too.

We are still interested in establishing a Mentor assistance program. Please be ready to sign up at our November meeting for both mentor/student.

Also please be ready to sign up for a monogram shirt or a turning smock. Cost will probably be between \$18 - \$36 dollars for a shirt and \$50 - \$52 for smock with sleeves.

We will be asking for intention to attend our Christmas Party and auction at the November meeting. We must have a ballpark number to tell the caterer. Last year we lost money through much lower attendance than previous years. You may bring tools, wood, or any item you wish to sell. To set a minimum cost the item must be \$100 or more. The Association receives 15% of the proceeds. Large items may be brought but must be left outside the building so as not to scratch the floor of the Church Fellowship hall. Our host is the First Presbyterian Church, Hickory.

See you November 9th, 10:00 AM.

John

Library News - by Mary Bachand

I will be having my "Winter Special" in November---whatever is checked out in November is not due until January--2 months for the rental fee of one month. I am hoping to have a lot of items rented as Ken has gotten a new woodturning catalog and there are a number of new videos that we do not have in our library. The more rent money that I get, the more supplies that I can buy and you can enjoy your rentals for two months.

I waited 10 days after our meeting to send this report to our editor in hopes that some overdue rentals would appear in my mail box but they didn't. So---Phil Hutchins and Bill Pitt, you have rentals that were checked out in August and are now overdue.

Coming Events - by Ric Erkes

November 9th - 10 am to 4 pm. Al Basham was originally scheduled to demonstrate for us in Nov. Unfortunately, for health reasons he had to postpone his visit. We wish him well and a speedy recovery. I was working Terry Brown into next years schedule, when he volunteered on short notice to help us out for our November meeting. Terry is a professional turner and a master at spindle work. He asks that you bring in your skew, gouge, or parting tool that gives you trouble. He will take the time to explain why your tool is giving you trouble. He also wants to gear the meeting to answering our questions. I've already asked; What causes 'ribbing' along a spindle? Any techniques using a steady rest? How do I use that skew anyway? Most of us usually turn bowls, and so if you are like me, you try to make the bowl gouge do beads and coves. Well, it is time to learn new tricks.

December 14. Christmas party and auction. Bring old tools and "stuff" that you no longer need for the auction, bring your wallet to buy new "used" tools and stuff that you do need, and bring your appetite for a great lunch! Don't forget your gallery pieces for everyone to see.

2003. Things are shaping up for next year and I am attempting to cover some ground that we haven't seen in a while or may be completely new to most of us. The line up so far includes Scott Ollis turning square bowls. Joel Hunnicutt will be demonstrating segmented turning. Joe Nelson will be doing a hollow vessel with spiral ridges. Tom Crabb will be back next year to do a Multi-Axis vessel with two tall narrow openings. Mark St. Leger on the AAW Board of Directors will be here to show off his talents in turning smaller items. Chris Ramsey will show the techniques involved in turning a wearable hat. I have our own Don Olsen and now, Al Basham standing by on reserve.

As you can see, with a our own mini-symposium next year and a Christmas party in December there aren't many openings left. If you have some one in particular you would like to see demonstrate please let me know. Some of the more well known turners fill their schedule early.

Member News - by Mary Bachand

It's that time of the year again! I'll be willing to take your membership dues for the year 2003 at our November meeting. If you are bringing cash, please have the correct amount. I don't have vast amounts of money for making change. If you are paying by check, please make the check to "NC Woodturners". We do not take credit cards. Thank you for taking care of this matter.

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 9th at 10:00 am

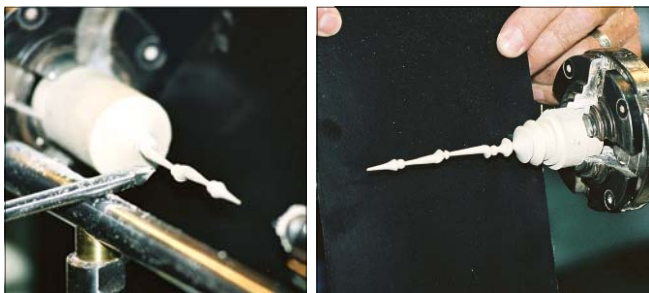
Demonstrator Review - by Don Oetjen

Bill Johnston, the demonstrator for the October meeting, was a charter member of our club in 1990. At that time his pieces were just the usual bowls and vases. He was an avid proponent of the principle that a turner should never make the hole in a vase large enough to insert a finger. You wouldn't want anyone to be able to judge how well the

inside was finished. His coloring was limited to using black paint on the inside of a vase, so even if you looked carefully, the inside was obscure.

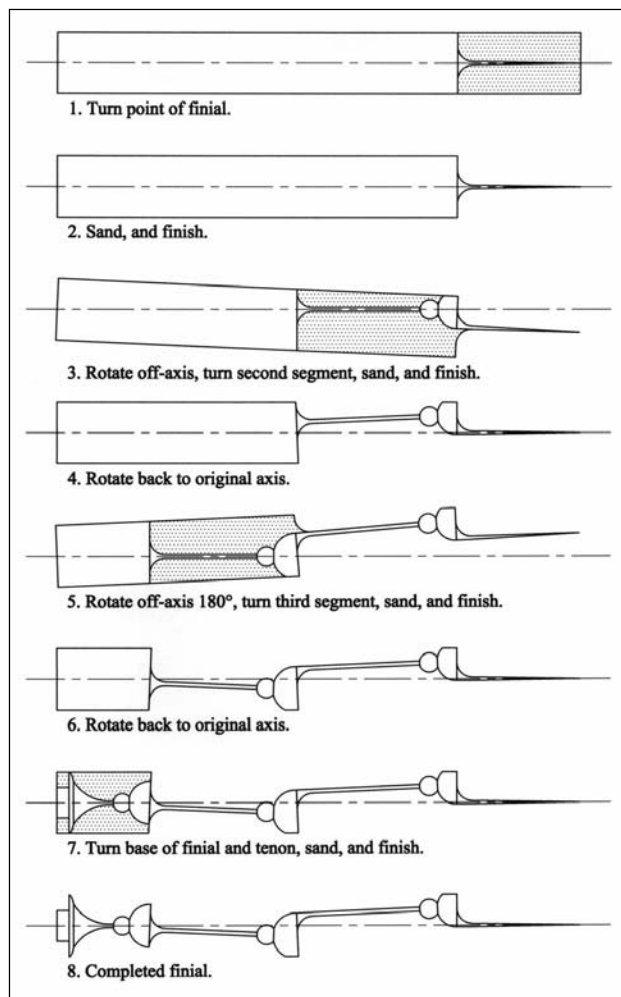
His range of pieces now is extensive. He creates many unusual shapes and uses InLace and dyes often to enhance the appearance. His sense of color and proportion in his turnings perhaps reflects his skill as a painter of some merit. Bill is a frequent demonstrator at both the local and the national level. His background as an educator contributes to making an effective presentation. I think it is correct to say that Bill Johnston is one of America's more accomplished turners.

The concept of multi axis turning is simple in principle but difficult in execution. It is possible to pay \$300 for a special chuck, made in France, that might make the job a bit easier but Bill showed us how to do it using a standard 4 jaw chuck. Turn a piece into a cylinder, cut a tenon on one end and fit it into the chuck. Turn a small finial, say, then reorient the piece in the chuck so it is off center. Cut another small shape behind the first, say a ball. Continue with various shapes and adjustments until you've reached the length you want. Bill created a slender rod to use as the "icicle" on a Christmas ornament. It was an impressive



demonstration of tool use where the typical diameter didn't exceed 1/8 inches.

He uses small detail gouges and a small skew to do this



work. The gouges had the heel ground back making a more pointed tool and to eliminate the sharp edge where contact with the work might leave a bruise. This is also a good tip for a bowl gouge. As you hollow out the inside of a bowl a sharp heel can damage the wood fibers that even aggressive sanding cannot remove. The wood used in the demo was holly and the point was made that a tight grain species is essential.

Another point made that can apply to other turnings was that once a piece is in a chuck have it rotating before bringing up the tailstock for support. This assures that the live center will find the true center of the work and not some place even slightly off center.

It's clear that there is a limit to the size of the piece that can be turned safely using a 4 jaw chuck. So if you try it, plan to



John C. Campbell Folk School

The following article is submitted by Ronald Mechling, Creston, North Carolina, who was this year's recipient of N.C. Woodturners scholarship to the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, N. C.

First and foremost, I would like to thank our Club for sponsoring the tuition at John C. Campbell Folk School. The cost was really minimal, that is until my wife, Beverly, decided to take a wildflower gardening course in conjunction with my visit. Two cannot travel as cheaply as one. Actually, the food and accommodations were great. When you consider room and board for the week at around \$300, it's probably cheaper than staying at home.

The class I chose to take was Mini-Lathe Woodturning with the objectives of increasing tool control skills, finding uses for scrap wood in the shop, and learning how to turn a variety of small items. All of the materials, equipment and tools were provided. Although the school's tools are of good quality and in good shape, they do encourage you to bring your own so that you can hone your skills using familiar tools. Some specialty tools were demonstrated.

The projects we turned were perhaps "old hat" to many of our members, but they were new to me. They included several different styles of Christmas tree ornaments, garden dippers, honey dippers, spinning tops, and eggs and egg holders. I also worked on lidded boxes, a "sock bob", and snowmen. All of these projects required good skills in turning bead shapes and tool control. I actually became familiar with the skew and began to like using it. The 5/8 "roughing gouge" was another tool that we learned to use well.

We had one field trip to visit Lissi Oland and her turning shop. She and her late husband, Knude Oland, built a decagon house that was not only interesting, but also housed a collection of Knude's works done in the early nineties. If you haven't visited the Oland website, I would highly recommend it at www.olandcraft.com. You will see pictures of the decagon house, the Oland turnings and for those of you who are "tool buffs", you can order tools that were designed by the Olands, some of which I use and find extremely practical. Another instructing bonus was a visit by Gary Sanders from Texas. If you are not familiar with his work, check it out in the upcoming issue of AAW journal. Gary brought the piece to class and explained how he turned and carved it. If this wasn't enough, in the room next to us, instructing for a week, was New Zealand's Soren Berger. Soren was kind enough to invite us to several demonstrations including his well-known ladle making. When he finishes making one, he places it on a table and rocks it back and forth to determine how balanced it is. Some of the good ones will rock over 125 times and he figures \$2.00 per "rock" as his selling price. Soren also lectured and demonstrated on vacuum turning. He uses hot glue and duct tape to develop gaskets for his vacuum cups. These are fairly inexpensive materials and if you have an interest in learning his technique call me and I'll give you my best rendition of how he accomplished this. I plan to experiment with these techniques myself as I have been unhappy with the seal and

the "tire marks" I get with the rubber cord type gaskets that most catalog houses carry.

Last, but certainly not least, the mini-lathe instructor was Willard Baxter assisted by Bobby Clemmons.

Willard has demonstrated at our Club meetings before and is noted for his threaded boxes. By the way, he has a new "gismo" for threading that he loves to discuss.



Willard is an accomplished woodturner and the new treasurer of AAW. We had a class with diverse turning skills and he was able to keep everyone learning.

Assistant, Bobby Clemmons from Tennessee, was a guest turner at our Club and is very accomplished as well. He demonstrated hollow Christmas tree ornaments and when someone asked him how many he had made he replied "more than 5,000".

Willard and Bobby did such a good job of training me on a mini-lathe that I purchased one upon returning and have added a variety of new turnings to my bag of tricks.

The Folk School had many activities during the week for your free time. I chose mostly to hang around the Woodturning Shop; however, some of the events during the week were guest musicians every morning for "morning song", square, contra and circle dancing, a Maypole dance (local maidens in festive costumes), a presentation on wild bears, bird watching, nature walks, a painting demonstration, a campus tour, trips to the local flea market and shops, etc., etc.

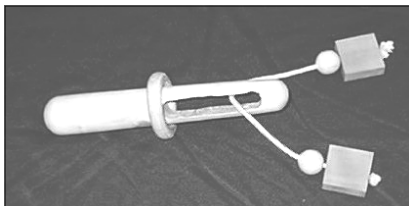
We often learn "truisms" when we are in a learning environment. One that I learned at John C. Campbell in woodturning was ... "it is much easier to hide your mistakes on a big bowl versus a small piece on the mini-lathe". A safety tip that makes sense on those pretty, shiny, expensive chucks we buy is to sand smooth the edges of the entire chuck so that when you bump it there is much less damage to you and your tools.

Finally, let me say how extremely fortunate we are to have so many wonderful folk schools in our immediate area – people come from all over the country to attend these schools because they are not available anywhere else. I would encourage each of you to attend any one of these schools for a great learning and fellowship experience on a variety of subjects. The staff and instructors are wonderful, friendly, helpful people who want you to enjoy your experience and have a good time and are ready and willing to please you at every turn. So, get out there and broaden your horizons – and happy turning!

2003 Challenge Projects

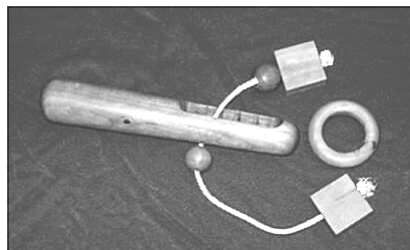
January 2003 - Game or puzzle. For an example of a puzzle, this one is re-printed with permission from Fred Holder's "More Woodturning" website.

This puzzle is pretty simple, fun to turn and fun to figure out. The only critical dimensions are that the square pieces will pass through the slot, the ring will pass through the slot but will not go over the large end of the shaft. The beads must not pass through the slot. Other than that, the dimensions are simply to make it look good. You want to cut the slot while the piece is still in the square. Start with a 1-1/2" x 1-1/2" x 9" piece of wood. Cut a slot 5/8" wide by about 3-1/2" long. The squares are 1-1/2" x 1-1/2" by 1/2". The beads are 3/4" in diameter. The ring has an inside diameter of 1-3/8" and the cross section of the ring is 1/2". The object of the puzzle is to remove the ring without undoing anything. Try making several in different sizes.



Here's the assembled puzzle:

Here's the solved puzzle:



February 2003 - Eccentric or multi-axis turning.

March 2003 - Miniature turnings - max dimension = 2"

April 2003 - Turned nuts - either turn a nut out of wood, or turn a nut into something.



Mark St. Leger's Fly House

May 2003 - Fly house (refer to Mark St. Leger's AAW video for an example).

June 2003 - Croquet ball and mallet. The regulation size of the ball is 3/4 to 5/8 inches in diameter, and must weigh less than 1 pound. The mallet head should be 8 1/2 to 9 inches in length, and 2 1/8 to 2 3/8 inches in diameter. The faces may be any shape, but must be identical and parallel. Typical dimensions are 2 1/4 inches in diameter by 8 1/2 inches long. The handle should be 32 to 34 inches in length; the first 3/8 of the handle is a little over 1 inch in diameter (this is where you can put your design), tapering to about 7/8 inch. The tenon into the head is 7/8 inches in diameter by 1 3/4 inches long.

July 2003 - Squared or cubed turnings

August 2003 - Something whimsical.

September 2003 - Mushrooms.

October 2003 - Whistles.

November 2003 - Bring your gallery pieces to the Symposium.

December 2003 - Bring your gallery pieces to the annual Christmas party and auction.

Mentor Program

If you are interested in learning new skills, or improving the skills you have, contact one of the following turners for mentoring:

John Winslett (Tryon, NC) - 828-859-9863.
 Dean Amos (Sandy Ridge, NC) - 336-871-2916.
 David Propst (Valdese, NC) - 828-437-4722.
 Ric Erkes (Davidson, NC) - 704-896-3302.
 Scott Ollis (Hickory, NC) - 828-294-4423.
 David Kaylor (Davidson, NC) - 704-892-8554.
 Edgar Ingram (Statesville, NC) - 704-876-4576.
 Glenn Mace (Mocksville, NC) - 336-751-1001.
 Dick Nielson (Gastonia, NC) - 704-864-1742.

If you are interesting in being a mentor, please let John Uteck know, so he can include your contact information in the Journal.

Gallery Photographs

Every month, George Wunker or Bonner Guilford photograph the gallery pieces for the Journal. Since the newsletters are published electronically, we have digital photos made up and saved on CD. Feel free to take the printed photographs of your gallery pieces for your own albums, with our compliments. Thanks again for sharing your turnings with us, and keep the gallery pieces coming in.

For Sale

Don't forget you can send in your sale or want ads for printing in the newsletter. This one was emailed to me on October 23rd - please call if you're interested.

Craftsman 12" lathe- \$200. Includes Jacob's bit/arbor and live tailstock center. 4" faceplate, two tool rests. 875- 3450 RPM by changing belts. Lathe is mounted on heavy plywood to facilitate storage and quick set-up. Could be made into a table easily. Call Mike at 336-388-5915.

"My Five Rules of Sanding" was written by Russ Fairfield and originally published in *American Woodturner* magazine, Spring 1999. I recently read the article posted on the www.woodcentral.com website under, "Russ's Corner". Sanding is such an important part of what we do, I asked Russ's permission to reprint it in our journal. I'm not a sanding expert, and I learned much from his article, but I thought I would add a couple of my thoughts (*in italics*) along with his. (*Italics by Ric Erkes*)

Sanding is important. It is the second of the three steps in the turning process - turning, sanding, and finishing. These steps are not independent. A poorly turned surface will require more time sanding, and a poorly sanded surface will result in a poor final finish. We are usually overwhelmed with information on turning tools and finishing products. Everyone wants to know about the latest tools and techniques, or the merits of various finishing products and which ones will give them "the perfect finish". But nobody wants to hear about sanding, and very little is ever published about it. In fact, it is more important than the finishing because the final finish will only be as good as the surface on which it is applied.

Sandpaper, The Tool

We can't discuss sanding without some knowledge about sandpaper (or cloth). The commonly used abrasives can be listed in the order of their hardness, sharpness, and durability: Ceramics, Aluminum Oxide, Silicone Carbide, and Garnet. Aluminum Oxide will remove wood faster than Garnet because it is harder and sharper, making a deep V-grooved scratch pattern on the surface, while the softer Garnet wears faster and leaves a pattern of shallow U-shaped grooves. It makes sense to start sanding with Aluminum Oxide and finish with Garnet.

(A lot of us take advantage of Klingspor's sandpaper bins. Both the reddish and gold colored sandpaper have Aluminum Oxide abrasives. The gold is backed with a flexible cloth and has stearate lubricant added to help slow down the clogging of the sanding particles. Their brand of white 'disc' sandpaper is also paper backed Aluminum Oxide with a stearate added.)

Don't buy cheap sandpaper. The grit designations of sandpaper do not represent a uniform fixed particle size. Rather, they are a range of particle sizes; with the majority of them being the stated size. The number and size of the particles that are different from that designated depends on

the equipment and the quality specifications of the abrasive manufacturer. Unless we have access to their product specifications, we have to rely on either price or experience to determine quality. Cheap sandpaper isn't necessarily a bargain because it usually has a broader range of particle sizes within a designated grit size, and it is the big ones that we don't want because they leave deep scratches.

The Five Rules of Sanding

Everything that I know about sanding can be reduced to "The Five Rules of Sanding". These rules will shorten the time between laying down the turning tool and realizing a museum quality finish. Since sanding can't be ignored, we can try to make it an easier task. Two prerequisites to sanding should be obvious. We can't see in the dark, and we can't work when we can't breathe. Always use a bright incandescent light, the brighter the better, while sanding so that the scratch pattern on the wood surface is clearly visible. Fluorescent light has no shadows, and the surface texture can be almost invisible. Always wear a dust mask while sanding, or better yet, use both a dust mask and a dust collector.

Rule 1 - Sandpaper is a cutting tool, keep it sharp and keep it clean.

Throw it away when it gets dull. Don't use worn-out coarse grit as a substitute for finer grit. Worn-out 120-grit is just that, and it cannot be used as a substitute for 280-grit. The spaces between the grit particles are like the gullets of a saw blade. The grit can't remove wood when the spaces are full. Clean both sheet and disc abrasives with a block of crepe rubber. (Yes, it works on sheet when we lay it on a flat surface and rub the rubber block across it). Some turners glue a piece of rubber to a block of wood that is then attached to their lathe. Blocks of natural colored crepe rubber are available through most of the woodworking catalogs, a \$10.00 purchase that will last for years. Do not use colored rubber, white rubber, or any caulking materials because they contain dyes and silicones that can interfere with many finishes.

....to be continued

Challenge Projects

November: Thanksgiving or Christmas theme.

December: Annual Christmas party - auction and gallery.

OCTOBER GALLERY

Photos by George Wunker

Dogwood



Edgar Ingram

Maple



Ric Erkes

Sassafras



Don Olsen



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OCTOBER GALLERY

Photos by George Wunker

Cherry Burl/Stump



Don Olsen



Maple

Don Hildebran

Dogwood



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Ambrosia Maple

Ric Erkes

Oak



J. D. Reinhardt



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: November 9th at 10:00 am