



North Carolina **WOODTURNER**

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

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April 2003



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ron Mechling

Our March demonstration by Joe Nelson was overflowing with attendees. Joe did a great job on spiraling vessels, as well as showing various tools and carving techniques. If our membership stays on the positive growth curve we have been experiencing, we'll have to add a balcony to the demonstration area.

Congratulations and thanks to all of you who participated in our booth at the Charlotte Woodworking Show. We had 12 members turning and getting dirty with shavings ... "the dirty dozen". A special thanks to J.T. Barker and Ken Phillips for arranging to pick up and transport the materials and equipment we used. We contacted scores of potential new members. Our new brochures, which include an application, were very useful in talking with people.

The initial 2003 Carolina Symposium planning committee met in Greensboro on March 14th. Edgar Ingram, Co-Chairman with Frank Penta in Raleigh, and I represented our club. We divided responsibilities between the Triangle Woodturners (Raleigh), Piedmont Triad Club (Greensboro) and us. Our major assignments include registration, part of the equipment, the trade show, the gallery and a student scholarship plan. We'll also be involved with the selection of demonstrators, lodging in Statesville and general management. *Where would you like to volunteer your efforts?*

Our commitment to the Mint Museum demo in Charlotte is underway as we send the Journal to press. It will take place on April 4th at the downtown location at 220 N. Tryon Street with Charles Farrar showing his latest techniques (including a hammered finish).

Our best wishes to Gil Milsaps who is recovering nicely from recent, major surgery.

See you on April 12th in Hickory as we experience the multi-axis vessel by Tom Crabb.

Ron

Member News - by Mary Bachand

Please welcome these new members who attended our March meeting-John Drury of Todd, NC; Jack Freeman of Morganton, NC; Ron Parker of Lake Lure, NC and Henry Tomlinson of Lenoir, NC. We also welcome back these renewals- Jack Edmonston of Asheville, NC and Lee Holt of Swannanoa, NC.

Library News - by Mary Bachand

For our new members I'd like you to know that our demos are taped and are available for renting. If the demo is an all-day (like our April one will be), there will be 2 tapes and they will be taped together so that you get 2 tapes for the price of one. Also, if you have a tape that has sound or picture problems, please tell me when you return it. If you keep a rental for more than one month, you do owe rent for that extra month, or months, as is the case for one member who has had rentals since January.

Everyone--please check out our library as we really have a good selection of videos and books.

I have ordered the following videos with the faith that there will be plenty of rentals in April. (I only have enough money to pay for one but feel that I can save on postage by ordering them at the same time.) They are both by Ray Jones-- "A Course on Spindle Turning" and "Bowls for Beginners".

Woodturning Symposia

June 27-29, 2003 - The *American Association of Woodturners Seventeenth Annual National Symposium* will be at the Pasadena Conference Center, Pasadena, California.

November 1st & 2nd - The *2003 Carolina Woodturning Symposium* will be held at the Statesville Civic Center. Mark your calendar.

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 12th at 10:00 am

Coming Events - by Ric Erkes

Apr. 12 - the return of Tom Crabb. If you thought there was some wizardry in his bias turning wait until you see Tom present his laid back style of multi-axis turning. 'A wedding vase' is as close as I can come to describing Tom's hollow forms with multiple openings all protruding at different angles. Come see why they put that hole through the tailstock. The meeting will run from 10:00 to 4:00.



- May 10* - Mark St. Leger - small items.
- June 14* - in-house demo - from log to bowl.
- July 12* - Matt Birchfield - thin walled lampshade.
- Aug. 9* - Chris Ramsey - a wearable hat.
- Sept. 13* - Phil Brennon - southwestern style instructions.
- Oct. 11* - Charles Farrar (tentative).
- Nov. 1st & 2nd* - mini-symposium.
- Dec. 13* - Christmas party.

2003 Challenge Projects

- April* - Turned nuts - either turn a nut out of wood, or turn a nut into something.
- May* - Fly house.
- June* - Croquet ball and mallet.
- July* - Squared or cubed turnings
- August* - Something whimsical.
- September* - Mushrooms.
- October* - Whistles.
- November* - Bring your gallery pieces to the Symposium.
- December* - Bring your gallery pieces to the annual Christmas party and auction.

Classifieds

For Sale: Hegner Scrollsaw, Multimax2, 14" throat, variable speed, 45-degree tilt table, stand, not used over 10 hours. Asking \$400.00. Contact Dave Terpening at (704) 541-5729.

NCW Logo Clothing

NCW clothing is now available. Samples of various sizes of golf shirts, henley t-shirts, and turning smocks will be available at the meetings. Contact John Uteck for details.

Gallery Photographs

Don't forget to take the printed photographs of your gallery pieces for your own albums, with our compliments.

Mentor Program - For All Levels of Turners

If you are interested in learning new skills, or improving the skills you have, contact one of the following turners for mentoring. Feel free to share your experience with us in the next newsletter, and don't forget to include photos!!

- 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.
- Sam McDowell (Statesville, NC) - (704) 871-9801.
- Edgar Ingram (Statesville, NC) - 704-876-4576.
- Glenn Mace (Mocksville, NC) - 336-751-1001.
- Dick Nielson (Gastonia, NC) - 704-864-1742.
- Grant McRorie (Rutherfordton, NC) - 828-288-9572.
- Don Olsen (Lincolnton, NC) - 704 735-9335.
- Ron Mechling (Todd, NC) - (336) 385-1250.

If you are interested in being a mentor, please let John Uteck know to include your contact information in the Journal.

Demonstrator Review - by Don Oetjen

Joe Nelson's demonstration at the March 8th meeting of the North Carolina Woodturners Association was done before another large appreciative audience continuing a recent trend. A small TV camera positioned on a boom above the lathe is a wonderful addition and allows a close up and personal view of the work taking place. Occasionally we got a close up look at the back of Joe's head but that didn't happen often. Congratulations to our Board for making this innovative addition to our visual system.



Joe has a background as a tool and die maker and makes most of his tools. He demonstrated the use of his home made laser built onto a Lyle Jamesion type

deep hollowing tool. He also makes many of his other scrapers and cutters, fitting them into a Dennis Stewart type handle. His skill as a metal worker coupled with his son's job in the furniture industry gives him access to tools and wood that we can only envy. For those of you who have made a laser tool one of Joe's tricks may be helpful.



In order to sharpen the laser dot he fitted a cover with a very small hole over the end of the light.. This gave a red dot with a more defined edge that was easier to set for the desired wall thickness.

Joe's signature turning is a vase with deep carved vertical lines. He starts by marking radial lines around the form at the top, middle and bottom. Then using the indexing head he marks



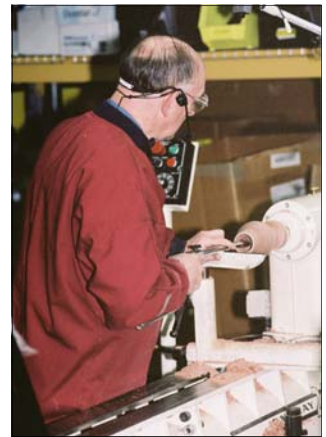
points on those lines at 12 places around the piece. Vertical lines are sketched in by hand connecting these three points.

Sometimes the lines are straight but more often it's a cyma curve flowing from top to bottom. The surface between the lines is further carved into a convex shape. He credits John Jordan with the idea of the form but emphasizes that we should all study other turners for ideas but develop our own techniques and variations.



A cyma curve for you non engineers is one that arcs to one side, goes back through a middle point then arcs to the other. It can be truly vertical or can be skewed to one side.

You might say Joe was a prepared demonstrator. He had wood partially turned and tools at hand to demonstrate each phase of the work. I believe he brought every tool from his shop except his lathe. It was useful to see the many different ways he did the carving, from powered carvers and sanders to hand controlled knives.



As usual it is difficult to convey all the details of the demonstration in a write up like this. I recommend you check out the tape made at the meeting. It is a good one.

Photographs

I've noticed that many of you bring digital cameras to the meetings. If you have any photos of the demonstration or gallery pieces that I can include in the next month's newsletter, please email them to me at uteck@conninc.com.

Thanks,
John

Playing with fire – by Andi Wolfe

From the December 2002 issue of the Central Ohio Woodturners Newsletter, re-printed with permission from Andi Wolfe.
www.andiwolfe.com

Surface enhancement through the use of pyrography is becoming more common in the woodturning world. I've been experimenting with carving and texturing by pyrography for about 18 months. In addition to enhancing the surface of my woodturnings, I've recently experimented with texturing the interior of a hollow form using a modification of pyrography.

I took a hollow form with me to South Africa to work on in the evenings during my field season. This was one of my first hollow forms and the interior was not nicely finished. I had used the Jamieson boring bar system and did not have good success in achieving a smooth finish because I had not yet purchased a teardrop scraper. I had some ideas I wanted to try with regards to the surface decoration, which worked very well. However, when you looked down through the mouth of this vessel, the horrible tool marks were quite visible and detracted from the overall appearance of the piece.

Most of my Sunday afternoons during the 2002 field season in South Africa were spent with Dennis and Gigi Laidler and their two sons. Dennis is an accomplished woodturner and Gigi is the editor of the newsletter published by the Western Cape Woodturners Association, and it was great fun to spend time at their house and talk wood, wood, and more wood. We chatted about the vessel I had brought as I was working on the surface treatment, and I bounced around an idea of burning out the interior of the vessel to get rid of the tool marks. I thought that if I could heat some metal to red hot and pour it into the vessel, that it would be just like doing pyrography on the interior. We thought of using lead shot or ball bearings, but decided that I would probably not get the texturing effect I sought using round objects (and we didn't really want to be breathing in lead fumes). So, we decided to use bolt nuts thinking that the angles in the hexagon nuts would serve the purpose of texturing as they burned into the wood.

Fortunately for me, Dennis has all the gear needed for doing gas welding. Off to the shop we went with a tin can and my hollow form (all the decorating completed except the painting!). We rounded up the welding gear and a handful of nuts along with a thick piece of wood to clap over the mouth of the vessel while rotating the red hot nuts inside.

We did a dress rehearsal of the procedure before torching the nuts (Fig. 1). Dennis calmly asked me,



“Are you sure about this?”

“Sure!” says I. “It’s just a chunk of wood – let’s see what happens.”



On went the torch with Dennis protecting his eyes with goggles and me watching the process through the viewscreen of my digital camera (Fig. 2). The nuts heated to a red glow. The torch was passed off to Christopher, who turned off the gas flow. Dennis poured the nuts into the vessel (Fig. 3). Smoke erupted from the mouth of the hollow form. The thick piece of wood was clapped over the mouth (Fig. 4) and it was time to really play with fire.



The amount of time it took to put the piece of wood over the mouth and to pick up the vessel was sufficient to completely burn away the sloppy tool marks at the bottom. By rotating the hollow form on its side and letting the nuts sit on the interior walls for a few seconds, it was possible to burn in an interesting texture on the interior walls. The entire sequence was repeated a second time to completely texture the interior of the vessel, and then I blended in the texturing from the outside to the inside using a 6A woodburning pen.



The technique was very successful for this hollow form, which now bears the title, “Sunday Afternoons with the Laidlers” (Fig. 5). The piece is made of Ambrosia sugar maple and the wall thickness was about 3/8” before the interior burning. Dennis tried this same technique on a camphor wood vase he made that had a thinner wall thickness. We did not have any problems with heat checking on either of these vessels.



I don't have a gas welding set-up in my home shop, but I have found a mini acetylene gas welding set from Lowes and I've heard that the propane microtorch that can be purchased through some of the woodworking catalogs should also heat metal to a sufficient temperature to do this type of burning. Safety precautions for this technique include: 1) adequate safety goggles to shield your eyes from the bright light produced by the welding torch; 2) adequate ventilation to minimize the inhalation of metal fumes; and 3) removal of extraneous flammable material from the area (i.e., clean up the shavings and sawdust before starting!).

MARCH GALLERY - Photos by George Wunker



Oak Burl

Don Olsen



Poplar and Walnut

J.T. Barker



Poplar and Walnut

J.T. Barker



Cedar

Don Olsen

March Gallery Photographs

Only half of the March gallery photos developed properly; those pictures that developed are included in this newsletter. If you brought a gallery piece to the March meeting that's not already pictured in this newsletter, and you want to have it photographed and included in the next newsletter, please bring your pieces back in April.

Please remember to fill out the gallery cards for each of your pieces that you bring in for the gallery. When photographed, George Wunker writes the photo number on each card, then I use those to help identify the piece in the newsletter. If I don't receive the gallery card with the photo number on it, it will remain anonymous.

John

North Carolina Woodturners Association Trivia

The past presidents in the picture are, from left to right, Tom "Doc" Fitz (1993 & 1994), Jack Stewart (1998), Edgar Ingram (1999 & 2000), Tony Bradley (1991 & 1992), John Winslett (2001 & 2002), and Dick Nielsen (1995 & 1996).



Bob Fisher served as president in 1997, and Ron Mechling started his term in 2003.

The North Carolina Woodturners Association was organized on September 4, 1990 at Bradco Wood Products in Hickory with 18 persons present. A temporary board of directors was appointed to serve until the first annual election of officers for the year 1991. Tony Bradley, owner of Bradco, was appointed president, then elected and served for the years 1991 and 1992. Ken Bachand is the only original board member who has consistently maintained his membership throughout the years, and Mary Bachand is the longest serving board member who never asked for the job to begin with!! (ED: Thanks for sticking with us Mary!)



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MARCH GALLERY

Photos by George Wunker

Various



Anonymous



Cherry

Harold Lineberger

Ash



Art Hattaway



Various

Anonymous

Hickory and Corian



Ric Erkes



Hickory

Jerry Ostrander

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 12th at 10:00 am