



North Carolina **WOODTURNER**

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

Volume 13, Number 7

July 2003



by Edgar Ingram
Wild Cherry

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ron Mechling

I was not able to attend last month's meeting, however I understand it was a success. Hopefully we were able to create more interest and give good advice on all the subjects covered. Thanks to all those who took the time to prepare and give the demonstration. I know there were some last minute changes and to those who stepped in to make up the difference, a special thanks to you.

We're excited about the "Mentoring Program" before the regular meeting on Saturday, July 12th. Ric Erkes has put together another fantastic opportunity for the newer turners in our organization. The mentoring will start at 10:00 and go to 12:00 noon. Hopefully all the students will help us clean up before our regular meeting. We'll have 7 lathes a'working (with a spare), 13 students a'learning and 7 instructors a'teaching. Sounds like fun. We might even be able to squeeze in one or two more students.

The planning for our Fall Symposium in Statesville is coming along fine. We have several suppliers already signed up for the mini- trade show. Almost all the demonstrators are from clubs around the area of North Carolina. Remember the dates of November 1st and 2nd as we need your support. Applications will be forthcoming soon.

Matt Birchfield of the thin walled lamp shade fame will present our regular program on July 12th at 1:00. The Board will meet at 12:00 Bring your own lunch as this will be a working meeting.

Keep on turning, Ron



Maple

Dwight Hartsell

Hands-On Mentoring Program

July 12th at 10:00am

A sign up sheet was passed around during the June meeting for some mentoring work before the scheduled demo this month. If you signed up and have not heard from someone, give Ric Erkes a call to find out who your instructor will be. If you missed out on this sign up list, this is a trial run and if all goes well we will be doing something similar in the future.



Member News - by Mary Bachand

We added two members to our growing family. Bob Hodges of Lincolnton was a member a few years back and has returned. Scott Richardson of Boone has attended several of our meetings and decided to join. Welcome to both of you.

Library News - by Mary Bachand

We were able to add approximately \$120 worth of equipment to our library this month. These were mentioned in our June journal-a book, Woodturning Design by Darlow, and a video, The Skew by Lacer. Other additions were a video by Jamieson, Hollow Forms the Easy way, and a book which our board highly recommended, Understanding Wood Finishing by Flexner. Now we need to get plenty of you willing to rent, so I can do some more shopping.

Please be kind to Bruce Whipple who volunteered to mind the library in July while Ken and I are in Michigan with two of our grandchildren.

NEXT MEETING: JULY 12th at 1:00 pm

Coming Events - by Ric Erkes

July 12 - thin walled lampshade. Our July demonstration will feature Matt Birchfield. He lives in Christiansburg, Va and is a member of the Blue Ridge Woodturners. Matt has studied extensively with Mark St. Leger who is also a Blue Ridge member. Matt will demonstrate the use of his self made hook tools used in an arm brace while turning a thin walled lamp shade. He'll include wood selection, wet sanding, and finishing techniques. Word of advice, he turns very wet wood so leave that first seat open for somebody special. The meeting will run from 1-4.



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 (challenge entries will be printed on the color pages of the next newsletter)

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 - Place your free ad in the newsletter!

FOR SALE: Total Shop 15 Inch wood planer; 3HP 220V motor; automatic feed; heavy duty stand; used very little; small "nick" in blades; you pick up and deliver. \$600 Firm. Call Tom Fitz, 828-324-6346

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

Since many of you bring digital cameras to the meetings, feel free to send any photos of the demonstration or gallery pieces to include in the next month's newsletter; email photos to John Uteck at uteck@conninc.com.

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



Ambrosia Dogwood

David Kaylor

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 Ric Erkes

FROM LOG TO BOWL



The goal of this meeting was to introduce our newer members to 'green wood' turning. Several members discussed different topics and passed along numerous tips and ideas. The meeting began with chainsaw techniques and proceeded through rough turning, sharpening, use of a bowl gouge and ended up with a discussion on reverse chucking.

I'll try to hit some of the highlights, but remember these are techniques to help you get started and maybe save you some frustration, but through practice you'll develop your own techniques and style.

Obviously, the best way to save green wood from checking is to leave it standing, but if that is not an option, cut the log into as few a sections as possible. This minimizes the amount of exposure to air drying. Next resort is to cut the log into lengths equal the diameter plus a couple of inches. This allows for some loss to checking, but still being able to turn as big a diameter bowl as possible. In each case coat the exposed ends with some type of end sealer to slow the drying process. It is helpful to label the variety of the wood while you still remember it.

When ready to turn, cut the bowl blank. First, lay the log down horizontally and cut down through the piths on both sides. If you can center the pith across the diameter, the grain pattern in the finished bowl is more likely to be matched.

With the half log flat side up, lay a clear circular piece of plastic on the log to trace out the desired diameter. Then chainsaw around the circle to remove excess wood and weight. Stabilize the log in a 'V' block or clamping jig.

If a band saw is your tool choice, put the log flat side down and tack a circular piece of cardboard on the top to act as a circular guide for your cut. Consider removing the metal throat of the bandsaw to avoid nicking the blade.

To begin, the spur drive is generally mounted in what will be the opening of the bowl, and a tenon is turned at the tailstock for chucking or fastening to a faceplate. Mounting the spur drive inside a ¼ deep recessed hole gives added security to the out of balance piece.

Once the blank is chucked (or attached to a faceplate) a "rough" bowl is turned. As a general guide leave the wall thickness about 10% of the bowl diameter. I.e. if the bowl is 10 inches across, leave the sides about 1 inch thick. It may be awhile before you get back to it, so label the wood and date it. You can also note the weight (in ounces or grams) and monitor when the water weight loss is stabilized.

Don Olsen discussed several methods for drying the bowl blanks. Some techniques are designed to slow down the drying while others try to speed up the drying. The success of each method varies and none work all the time. The more common methods amongst our members involve;

Placing the rough turned pieces in paper bags. The bags absorb the moisture, but slow down the air circulation. Do not use plastic bags. Some folks will change out the bags every so often.

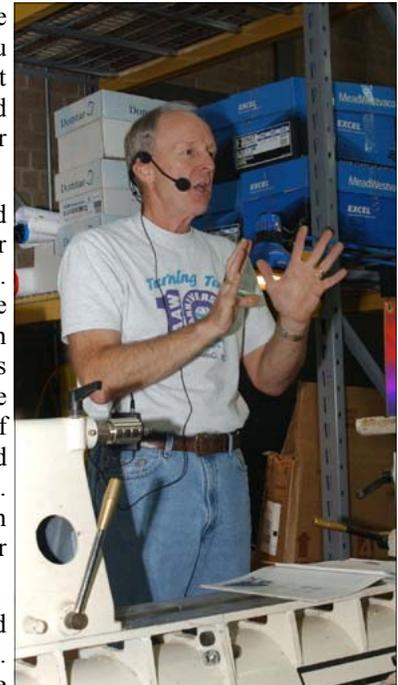
Putting a coat of end sealer on the outside of the bowl. This allows the moisture to escape only from inside the bowl thus slowing the process. It is sometimes helpful after a couple of months, to turn off the outside coating of wax and let the bowl air dry some more before final turning. This releases some of the tension in the wood and also allows for the last bit of moisture to escape easier.

With both of these methods, at least 4-6 months drying time can be expected. If the bowl feels cold to the touch, there is still probably excess moisture present, as evaporation is a cooling process. Storing the rough bowls inside allows them to stabilize at household humidity.

Old dishwashers with working heat elements, large boxes with light bulbs in them, stoves set on low are all methods to speed up the drying through low heat. Microwaving can further speed up the drying by boiling out the moisture. (On a finished piece, this can cause sap to boil out and stain the outside surface.)

Boiling the piece in water is an attempt to replace the sap with water which will then dry faster with less warpage. Be careful with trapped steam!

Soaking in 50/50 liquid soap/water combination is another attempt at replacing the sap. This method can actually help



lubricate the wood during turning. A web search will yield lots of information on any of these drying techniques.



If you missed the demo, it is impossible for me to provide a written description on how to use a Wolverine or Tormek sharpening system. Both have lots of attachments to sharpen the various types of gouges and scrapers we typically

use. By July, the club will have its' own Wolverine system. Over half our members use the Wolverine system and all thought it was worth the money. Fewer of us own the Tormek grinding system, but those who did, also thought it was worth the extra money. While the Tormek can take a tool to the next degree of sharpness over the Wolverine, consider it a sharpening system not a shaping system. The slow speed of the Tormek makes it impractical to do a lot of shaping. Stories of getting a 'catch' on the grinder reminded us to properly support the tool while it is being sharpened, and to wear eye protection.



Sam McDowell demonstrated the use of a bowl gouge. Various angles and lengths of the 'sweptback wings' were shown. Most of us use some type of fingernail grind, that is, a grind which is extended down along the sides of the gouge. This yields a cutting edge which wraps around the tip. This allows several approaches to the piece while still having the bevel provide support for the cut. Place the tool handle on your hip, spread your feet, and the majority of the outside shaping can be done by sliding your hips. To ride the bevel, approach the piece with the chin of the bevel, then roll the gouge to begin cutting with the nose or either cheek. In order to prevent a catch, strive to have the force of the cut driven into the tool rest. Note the correlation between the outside curve of the bowl and the movement of the handle. The larger the arc the handle moves through, the greater the curve of the bowl. With practice, you can become comfortable, boring, scraping, and shear cutting with a bowl gouge.

We finished the day with a look at various ways of Reverse



Chucking. This is the process of friction turning the bowl so that the chuck tenon or faceplate screw holes can be removed. The goal in mind is to remove any evidence of how the piece was held on the lathe. There are several ways to do this, and some prior planning may be necessary. A common method is to mount a flat board on the headstock, cut a groove to match the bowl's rim, and hold the bowl in that groove with tailstock pressure. Cut away the chuck tenon, leaving just a small tenon that can be cut off with a chisel. A couple of long machine screws with wingnuts, and another board with a cut out circle can be used to sandwich the bowl in place so that even this nub can be turned off. Masking tape is also effective in holding the bowl so that this nub can be removed.

A small faceplate board with a piece of padded material added on can be used to fit inside the bowl. The tailstock is then used to hold the bowl in place. Place a paper towel between the finished surface and the chucking surface. This helps to prevent burnishing the piece in case it spins in the jam chuck.

For smaller openings, a tennis ball mounted to a piece of wood or a wooden cone wrapped in leather work well to provide the necessary friction.

Finally, add some detail to the bottom, such as a groove, date, name, or some mark to give the holder something to see when they turn the bowl over, which they always do.

It was a busy meeting with lots of ideas. Take the ones that appeal to you and soon you'll learn to use your own. Every month a list of people who have volunteered to mentor appears in the newsletter. Take advantage of their expertise, and then most importantly, just practice, have fun, and do it safely.

JUNE GALLERY - Photos by George Wunker



Maple

Dwight Hartsell



Big Leaf Maple Burl

Dean Amos



Holly

Sam McDowell



Bayberry Burl

John Uteck



Ambrosia Dogwood

David Kaylor



Red Mulberry

Craig Summerville

JUNE GALLERY

Photos by George Wunker

Mahogany & Maple



Ric Erkes



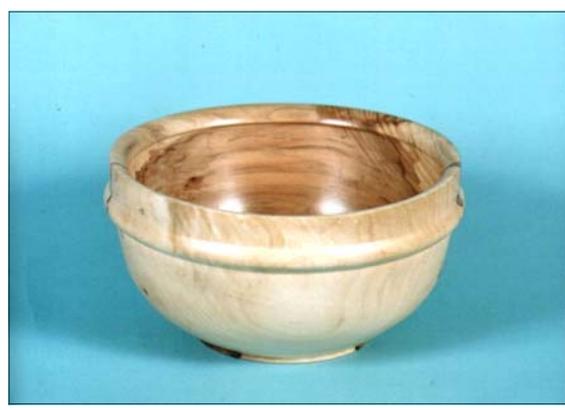
Box Elder

Clarence Cogdell

Walnut & Sycamore



Don Olsen



Maple

Art Hattaway



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JUNE GALLERY

Photos by George Wunker



Pecan

Jerry Ostrander



Cherry Burl

Don Hildebran



White Oak

David Kaylor



Maple Burl

Craig Summerville



Various

Monk Bridges



Ambrosia Maple

Rodney Cogdell

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: July 12th at 1:00 pm