



# *North Carolina* **WOODTURNER**

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

Volume 13, Number 9

September 2003



**A Bird In Hand**  
by Don Oetjen  
Rhodendron Root

**NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 13th at 10:00 am**

**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

By Ron Mechling

If you missed last month's meeting, you missed what was probably the best demonstration I've seen. Chris Ramsey, from a Kentucky residence, showed us how to make wooden hats. Chris came fully equipped with lathe, dust collection system, grinder, compressor and other essentials, all packed neatly in his trailer. On Saturday morning he proceeded to mesmerize us with his skills and a couple of good stories. He made a couple of mirror frames (scraps from hat blank), two large hats and a small hat. Chris plans to finish these pieces and send them to the club. We will auction these off to raise funds. Wow! What a day.

Our plans for the symposium in Statesville on November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> are firming up. You should receive an application at your home address and if not we'll have them at our September meeting. Please support us as this is our major fundraiser for the next two years. See you there! Edgar Ingram is leading this effort on our behalf along with the Raleigh Triangle Club.

Buck Bean from Granite Falls is in the process of making a stand for our safety shield. We appreciate his efforts.

We were sorry to here that Terrell Kanipe passed away. Terrell as many of you know has been a member since the inception of NCW and recently contributed the CO2 canister and controls for us to use. We'll certainly miss him. Our hearts and prayers go out to Shirley, his wife, and all of his family.

We're gearing up for a strong program with Phil Brennion on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00. He style is southwestern ... does that mean that he makes cactus. After last month I'd believe anything. The Board will meet at lunchtime, so bring a lunch.

Keep on turning, Ron

**Member News** - by Mary Bachand

Summer has been a bumper time for getting new members. Please be sure to be friendly to these new members: Joel Carpenter of Monroe, NC; Joe Morris of Glade Valley, NC; Robert Nicks of Elkin, NC; Roy Oxentine of Oak Island, NC; Gary Ritchie of Shelby, NC; and Everett Tucker of Salisbury, NC.

**Library News** - by Mary Bachand

There are several of you who have rentals overdue. As I wasn't at the July meeting to warn you, I will assume that you will return the rentals plus the extra rent in September or mail them to me. If not, I will publish names with reminders in the next journal.

I was unable to buy anything new this month as I am still trying to repay our checking account for the forgotten Craft Supplies order which I had given up on ever getting.

**Coming Events** - by Ric Erkes

*Sept. 13* - Our September meeting will be a 10 - 4 all day meeting featuring Phil Brennion. Where do I start introducing Phil? Phil is currently serving as Vice President of the AAW and lives near Prescott, AZ. He specializes in turnings with a Southwestern flair, recently having one of his pieces on the cover of the AAW magazine. To help keep his plate full he teaches wood sculpting and woodturning full time, is the host editor of an online woodturning forum, has written several woodturning articles and is part owner of an art Gallery. Phil is nationally known for his demonstrations, so you don't want to miss this one as we welcome Phil to North Carolina humidity.

*Oct. 11* - Charles Farrar.

*Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>* - Carolina Symposium.

*Dec. 13* - Holiday party and auction.

**Terrell Kanipe 1933- 2003**

It is with great sympathy that we acknowledge the recent, unexpected death of Terrell Kanipe. Terrell was born on December 16, 1933 in Catawba County and was a current residence of Newton. Terrell attended Hickory High School and Catawba Community College. He was licensed in plumbing, heating and cooling, refrigeration and real estate. He owned and operated Mountain View Realty and was a member of the American Legion, the Moose Club, the Fairbrook Fire Department and Rescue and the Catawba Valley Jim Beam Bottle and Specialty Club. His membership in NCW goes back to the founding days of the organization and he has been supportive throughout his tenure. Memorials may be sent to Neuropathy Association, 60 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Room 942, N.Y., N.Y. 10165.

### ***2003 Carolina Woodturning Symposium - Introduction to the Demonstrators***

**Scott Ollis** of Hickory, NC has been a full-time woodturner and rustic furniture maker since 1999. Scott has a special love of wood and his goal in turning is to capture this feeling in his work. Scott's philosophy is to "let the wood tell me what to make."

**Bruce Hoover** of Bloxom, VA has been a woodworker most of his life and has been turning for 7 years. Bruce's thin-walled pierced Christmas ornaments were featured in the Winter 2000 issue of *American Woodturner*. As self-proclaimed past president of the "I Hate To SAND Club", Bruce has developed innovative methods, tools, and widgets to reduce sanding effort and learned many more tips from fellow turners. He now finds sanding more palatable and sometimes fun.

**Frank Penta** of Raleigh, NC is President of the Triangle Woodturners of NC. He has been turning for the past seven years specializing in producing gallery quality pieces. An experienced teacher and demonstrator, he is known for his design and detailing techniques. His work appears in private collections and is sold through museums and galleries.

**Elvie Jackson** of Raleigh, NC is a self-employed business owner and woodturner. He turns bowls as well as various hollow forms with natural edge, tops. He feels that "it is an awesome feeling to reveal the natural beauty that nature has placed inside a piece of wood."

**Ric Erkes** of Davidson, NC decided after years of general woodworking and furniture repair, that he enjoyed the turning aspect of woodworking the most. Shortly after moving to NC, he joined the NC Woodturners to further develop his skill. Now the vice president of the NC Woodturners, Ric is still enjoying the challenge of developing a new turning skill, while at the same time being the first person to see what Mother Nature has hidden inside that piece of wood.

**Joel Hunnicutt**, of Siler City, NC is President of Piedmont Triad Woodturners. He has been woodturning for four years and has, from the beginning, spent most of his time doing segmented work. By using segmented construction, he is able to design on two levels, color and shape, to create forms that would be difficult to do using solid wood.

His design influences tend to be classic shapes, particularly Greek and Egyptian. For the last year, he has been doing a lot of open segment work and has begun to experiment with dyes and paints for unusual surface treatments. He sells his work through galleries and juried shows.

**Tom Crabb** of Richmond, VA was in his late 30's before he started working wood seriously, building wooden boats in Mathews, VA. Since then Tom has published two books and over 40 articles on woodworking and woodturning. He spent 15 years in Richmond designing and engineering furniture and store fixtures. Now retired, Tom spends all day, every day in his shop perusing whatever notion, no matter how foggy, as long as it's on the lathe.

**Chris Howarth** resides in Chapel Hill, NC and has been working with wood for about 7 years, initially working on furniture and segmented rectangular boxes. Chris began turning again 3 years ago after a 30-year hiatus, 7<sup>th</sup> grade woodshop, and has been with Triangle Woodturners for the past 2 years. Chris enjoys turning boxes, spheres, segmented pieces and is constantly experimenting with new designs and shapes.

**Brooks Johnston** of Cary, NC has been turning wood for 3 years and enjoys turning small boxes and hollow forms the most. Brooks believes that turning beautiful objects on the lathe comes after a solid foundation has been laid by building skills with all the tools of the trade. This philosophy is based on the fact that mastership of the tools and techniques allows a turner to focus on the style and art of woodturning.

**David Woodruff** is a native of North Carolina and has turned wood most of his life and professionally since 1995. His work is presented at selected art shows, galleries and guilds and he creates custom and commissioned pieces for corporate and private clients. He also demonstrates finishing techniques to local chapters and provides "one on one" turning instruction in his studio shop. Woodruff creates "One of a Kind" hollow form vessels and other art objects that are created from woods that are personally selected for their great unique interaction between the genetic and environmental forces that contribute to the multi-dimensional beauty of his artistically turned pieces.

#### ***Mentor Program - For All Levels of Turners***

If you are interested in learning new skills, or improving the skills you have, contact one of these mentors.

- 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.

**Demonstrator Review** - by Don Oetjen

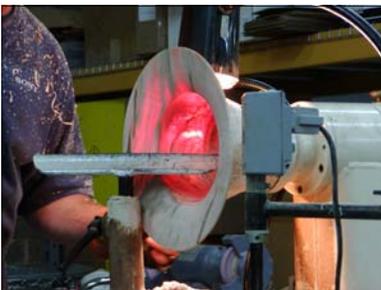
**Chris Ramsey Demo - August 9, 2003**



If you enjoy a demonstration that has turning tips that you can use, a real "gee whiz" turned art form and humor, you enjoyed Chris Ramsey's hat making at our meeting Saturday August 9<sup>th</sup>. If you didn't attend I'll try to capture some of the flavor of the event. The library will have two full tapes for you to peruse to learn the "how to" details. You

can also go to Chris' custom web site [www.knot-head.com/hickory](http://www.knot-head.com/hickory) which contains lots of information on making hats, as he presented during our meeting.

Chris's career included owning a fiber optics installation business and he began turning in 1997 as a hobby. As he developed his hat making technique and his reputation grew he was able to become a full time turner. His hats generally sell through a gallery but many sales happen when a customer introduces him to another. It's how he happened to meet Missy Wrigley of Catalina Island and chewing gum fame. His local congressman, a friend of George W Bush (before he got to be President) told "W" he just had to meet the "Hat Guy" and see his work. Chris made a hat for W and got to present it to him a few weeks before 9/11/01. He also took home an order for two more hats. His recitation of that experience, the antsy behavior of the secret service men each time he reached in his pocket and the easy demeanor of the President made for interesting comments during the demo.



Chris first got the idea for a hat from a bowl with a wide rim that he turned for his wife to use as a planter. When he turned it over it looked like a hat. So he began to refine his technique to make the pieces look exactly like a hat. After a hundred

or so he felt he had it down to the point where he could turn the various shapes to represent the many types of hats there are, cowboy, outback, derby, baseball, top hat, gardening, etc. Although the turning portion requires some unique skill, perhaps the bigger problem is bending the crown to an oval

shape and getting the brim to turn up or down as required all without cracking. It was necessary for Chris to develop the jigs and fixtures to accomplish this.

Chris turns many of his hats from burls usually starting with a 16"-17" diameter piece chain sawed to an approximate dome shape. To save as much of this valuable wood as possible he parts off a ring from which he creates a frame for a mirror. A cone from the inside of the hat is the material for a smaller hat of about 8" in diameter. The small ones are perfect replicas of the big ones.



Here are some of the turning tips he offered. Most you have probably heard them before but they are a good reminder.

Before threading on a chuck make sure there are no chips of any size on the spindle or chuck. Even a small piece can cause a problem.

Do not bottom the tenon in the chuck jaws. Turn a flat just outside of the diameter of the tenon so that the face of the jaws seat themselves against this flat spot on the turning.

Chris uses a gouge that has shot in the handle and feels this is important in damping vibration. He also grinds off the heel and the ears of the gouge to lessen the possibility of a catch as he works the inside of the hat. Grinding the heel reduces the tendency to bruise the wood as he does the hollowing of the inside.

You will rarely see a demonstrator who does more measuring and inspection of the work than Chris. He is very careful do a perfect job. The fact that he is working to 3 /32"



is a very good reason to measure often. He is meticulous in searching out and correcting any torn grain. Spritzing a spot with water then a fine cut with a sharp gouge will usually do the trick.

For those of you who wondered how he got his hats to float



in the photographs here's the magic. The photo is taken with a neutral back drop that has a hole in it. A stick with a glob of duct tape is attached to the hat and poked thru the hole. Chris holds the stick and hat in the appropriate position and his Father snaps the picture.

Thanks to Chris Ramsey for a very interesting day at the lathe.

(be sure to sign out the video to see how he puts the colored hat bands on!! - ed.)



### **2003 Challenge Projects** (challenge entries will be printed on the color pages of the next newsletter)

*September* - Mushrooms.

*October* - Whistles.

*November* - Bring your gallery pieces to the 2003 Carolina Woodturning Symposium.

*December* - Bring your gallery pieces to the annual holiday party and auction.

***We need "Challenge Project ideas for 2004 - please submit your ideas to John Uteck, uteck@conninc.com***

### **North Carolina Woodturners newsletter is on the web!!** [www.geocities.com/nc\\_woodturners](http://www.geocities.com/nc_woodturners)

If you want to receive an email notice when the newsletter is published on the internet, please send an email to John Uteck, uteck@conninc.com.

We recently set up an email/web discussion group - check it out and join in at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ncw>

This will be a great place to notify other members of events, tools, wood, tips & ideas, book and video reviews, etc., as well as share pictures and "how to" files.

### **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.

**FOR SALE:** 8 inch Delta table saw with stand. 3/4 HP. \$60. Extra carbide blade \$10. Almost new Skill 7 1/4 inch cut-off saw, \$40. Tile-cutting saw on table, \$50. John Winslett, 828 859-9863.

### **Holiday Fruit Cakes**

Mary is taking orders now for fruit cakes to be delivered at the December meeting. The fruit cakes are made with dates, cherries, candied pineapple, pecans, and "just a touch" of Myers dark rum. The small loaf size is \$10 and the large loaf size is \$25. Please let Mary know by note, e-mail, phone call, or in person if you want any so that she will have enough this year.

# AUGUST GALLERY

Photos by George Wunker



Editor's Note: Many of the name cards were misplaced after the August meeting identifying the photographed turnings and artists. As a reminder, please leave the name cards on the table after the meeting - it is the only way I can include information in the newsletter.



# AUGUST GALLERY

Photos by George Wunker



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## AUGUST GALLERY

Photos by George Wunker



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: September 13th at 10:00 am**