



North Carolina **WOODTURNER**

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

Holiday Festival 2003



Good People



Good Times



Good Food



Good Bargains



Good Turnings



.....and Holiday Decorations

Don't miss the 2004 Holiday Festival this December!!

Volume 14
Number 1
January 2004

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ron Mechling

I hope each of you and your families had a safe and happy holiday season. If you're like me, you had to travel to family gatherings. Isn't it nice to be home again and to start contemplating the activities of the new year.

Our December 13th Christmas party at Presbyterian Church in Hickory was a great success by any measurement. We had a tremendous number of members and spouses. The spouses enjoyed the activities and food, and especially the opportunity to judge and personally receive a Christmas ornament or item made by our members. Bill Williams was honored as having the best entry, and received a NCW smock as his reward. We appreciate all of you who made items and a special thanks to those who brought extras. Almost every spouse received something.

The silent auction seemed to work well. We would really appreciate your feedback on the auction and the other activities that we had or could have had. We know we want to have some special music and plan on doing so at the 2004 party. I did ask Don Olsen to sing, however he declined and received applause for doing so. There are many to thank for this successful holiday event. Mary Bachand made some of the best desserts and the fruitcake better than ever. Thanks goes to Sam McDowell and David Kaylor for handling the silent and live auctions so well. David was also elected to another term on the Board of Directors. Always unsung is our photographer, George Wunker, who documented the event and changed a tire for the Bachands (hope that nasty bump on your head has healed, George). And thanks to the supporting cast who are too numerous to mention.

One last accolade goes to the Klingspor Woodworking Shop for contributing a \$50 gift certificate for a door prize and special thanks to Wynn Whitener of Homeshop Hardwoods in Morganton for contributing a number of pieces of exotic hardwoods. Please support these folks who always support us.

We had a good number of Symposium t-shirts left over and will be offering these at \$5.00 each while they last at the next meeting. The Symposium generated over \$2000 to be used by the club in the next two financial years. Thanks again to those of you who helped make the event a success.

A quick reminder that your dues for 2004 are due now. Please help Mary by paying them early.

In 2004 we will offer special incentives to the winner of the Monthly Challenge. Be sure to bring your version of a platter to the January 10th meeting at 1:00 in Hickory at the Klingspor Facility. Board of Directors will meet at 10:45.

Keep on turning, Ron

PROGRAM NOTES

By Ric Erkes

So How Does He Hold It?



I hope everyone's Christmas stockings were stuffed full of new woodturning tools. Don Olsen is going to kick off our new year showing us a technique that might put those tools to use. You have seen them on the Gallery table. They look a little like a funnel. They've been called a 'bowl with a hole in the bottom'. But if you have thought about making one, there is an obvious turning challenge there. How do you reverse a bowl that has no bottom? Maybe harder still, where do you sign it? Don has been a long time member of our club, and has demonstrated at the national level. It's been over a year since he has been up front, and if you're new to the club, be prepared for an enjoyable and informative demonstration. For those of us who have long admired his skill, we already know to look forward to this one.

2004 looks to be a great year for the North Carolina Woodturners. Take out that new calendar and mark off the second Saturday of each month. Once again, I've got just a few holes to fill, so let me know if there is somebody you would like to see demonstrate.



Mark your Calendar for 2004

January 10	July 10
February 14	August 14
March 13	September 11
April 10	October 9
May 8	November 13
June 12	December 11

**NEXT MEETING: JANUARY
10th at 1:00 pm**

"Attached is a copy of the treatise. If you wish to try it, read it carefully. I get a few folks writing back about it not working and they don't follow the instructions. Point to remember: LDD is not to dry or 'cure' bowls, it is to stabilize the wood while you are turning it. It should not be left out to dry before you put a finish on it. The finish can go right on a 'wet' bowl." - Leif O. Thorvaldson

The Soap Solution

reprinted with permission by Leif O. Thorvaldson

Having a reawakening to the pleasures of woodturning after a gap of four years, I plunged into it with enthusiasm. Joining the South Puget Sound Chapter AAW, buying books and videos and eagerly reading all the posts on rec.crafts.woodturning along with visiting every site, both personal and commercial. I became increasingly discomfited by what I read and learned. Experienced turners and professional turners were constantly carrying on about multitudinous ways of "drying" wood so as to avoid cracking. One way in particular had my hasty heart dismayed when it was described that one should rough turn the wood, slather it up with various lotions and potions and let it sit for six months to six years. One was to build an enormous pile of these objects by constantly adding to the drying rack and, at the end of the six months (or six years), check to see if the roughed out blank had cracked or warped so badly as to be unusable. If not, one could then turn it to completion, finish it and hope that it wouldn't crack thereafter. Faster methods were suggested: boiling, microwaving, burying in manure piles, compost heaps, sawdust piles, storing in sealed plastic bags, unsealed plastic bags, dry paper bags, wet paper bags, immersing or spraying with WD-40, ad nauseum. None of these did what I wanted to do, i.e., pickup a piece of green wood, turn it, sand it and finish it within a day or two without unsightly cracks occurring.

One fateful day, browsing on my computer while waiting for the first six months to elapse, I encountered a very lovely website by Ron Kent (<http://www.ronkent.com/RKgallery.html>). He had some beautiful Norfolk Pine turnings -- very thin -- and used some unique finishing techniques. All very nice, but what struck me was a technique he had developed for stabilizing and conditioning wood. He had tried the expensive route, but was looking for something under \$50 per gallon. To make his story short, he found that Costco's house brand (Kirkland) liquid dishwashing detergent mixed with an equal amount of water provided hitherto unavailable qualities in both conditioning and stabilizing of wood for almost immediate turning and finishing

I went to Costco and purchased four half gallon containers of the magic elixir along with a sturdy plastic storage bin of sufficient size to hold the mixture and some bowl blanks. Upon arrival at home, I emptied the detergent into the

container and added an equal amount of water. From then on, I would take primarily green wood and rough turn in one day, soak overnight, and finish the next day. Sometimes I didn't finish it on the second day and left it mounted on the lathe overnight and sometimes for a several days. Surprise! They didn't crack! I have since taken green wood, rough turned it, soaked it about four hours and then finish turned it and finished it in one day. In the six to eight months I have been using this technique, I haven't had one bowl crack. A few had a bit of movement, but it was very slight. I have used the following woods: black walnut, vine maple, maple, oak (kiln dried), yew, honey locust, fruiting cherry, birch, plum, apple. I have not tried madrona as I refuse to cut down the only one I have growing on my property.

Needless to say, I was ecstatic and proceeded to share my "discovery" with any and all turners I knew (two) and also spread the word on rec.crafts.woodturning (a regular not-so-little Johnny Appleseed I was!). A few turners were lured into trying it. Unfortunately, some people can't follow directions and tried variations on the simple recipe which resulted in cracking. A few did it correctly and were rewarded with success.

There has been some speculation as to the mechanism behind the process, but no real scientific investigation has been done. Lyn Mangiameli, John Nicklin and I have come up with the following theory, which John set to words

"The soap solution sets up an osmotic gradient. Pure water in the wood is in more abundance than water in the soap solution, so it (the water) tries to migrate to balance the osmotic pressure. This would cause the specific gravity of the soap solution to decrease (although possibly not noticeably.) On the other hand, the concentration of soapy stuff is higher outside the wood than in, so it tries to migrate into the wood. If it is successful in migrating into the cells, the soapy solids will get trapped as the wood dries, preventing the cells from collapsing as they do when wood dries naturally (or unnaturally for that matter.)

As you point out, the soap solution is slicker than a Teflon banana peel. This may help the migration of soapy solids into the cells."

An attempt was made by Lyn to conduct a survey to gather details for a study on the detergent/soap technique. Unfortunately, he received only 11 responses from turners, so feels that no meaningful statement can be made as to the efficacy of the process.

The only slight drawback to the detergent solution is that the wood should be drained for a few minutes or longer and wiped with a towel while mounting it to the headstock. A plastic sheet should be placed over the ways and eye protection should be worn. Try it! Your hands will be smoother, cleaner and less subject to cracking as well as your turnings.

Member News - by Mary Bachand

The guys on our board need to go into the party-planning business. They did a super job of keeping the gathering moving and entertaining. All I had to do was supply a few sweets. This was the best crowd ever to attend. An enjoyable time of fellowship with friends.

2004 dues are trickling in. If you want to be listed in the new directory and have your name tag in the correct alphabetical order in the name tag box, please be sure that you have sent in your dues by the January meeting. After that meeting, I will take home the name tag box and rearrange the name tags. I will also make the new directory and have it printed. Then name tags, directories, and membership cards should be available at the February meeting unless there is a blizzard here in the mountains.

Library News - by Mary Bachand

Thanks to a \$15 donation from Bill Piastuck, one of our "snow bird" members, I have almost enough money to order the 3 videos from the 2003 AAW Symposium. (I'll order them with the hopes of making up the difference with January rentals.)

Remember that all rentals are due at our January meeting. If you can't make the meeting, mail the videos to me or plan to pay rental for another month.

New Members

Don't forget - members will receive 5 free raffle tickets if you bring in a new member.

2004 Challenge Projects (challenge entries will be printed on the color pages of the next newsletter)

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|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| January - Platters. | July - Spheres. |
| February - Natural Edges. | August - Captive Rings. |
| March - Bias Turning. | September - Collaborative. |
| April - Eggs. | October - Light Weight. |
| May - Tools, Jigs, Etc. | November - Boxes. |
| June - Texturing. | December - Snowmen. |

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.

- o John Winslett (Tryon, NC) - 828-859-9863.
- o Dean Amos (Sandy Ridge, NC) - 336-871-2916.
- o David Propst (Valdese, NC) - 828-437-4722.
- o Ric Erkes (Davidson, NC) - 704-896-3302.
- o David Kaylor (Davidson, NC) - 704-892-8554.
- o Sam McDowell (Statesville, NC) - (704) 871-9801.
- o Edgar Ingram (Statesville, NC) - 704-876-4576.
- o Glenn Mace (Mocksville, NC) - 336-751-1001.
- o Dick Nielson (Gastonia, NC) - 704-864-1742.
- o Grant McRorie (Rutherfordton, NC) - 828-288-9572.
- o Don Olsen (Lincolnton, NC) - 704 735-9335.
- o Ron Mechling (Todd, NC) - (336) 385-1250.

Classifieds - Place your free ad in the newsletter!

NCW Logo Clothing

NCW clothing is now available. Contact Kim Lindsey at Vector Shirts (910-582-0051 or www.vectorshirts.com)



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