



# *North Carolina* **WOODTURNER**

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

Volume 14, Number 2

February 2004



Maple Platters by Don Oetjen

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## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ron Mechling

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We'd like to extend a big thanks to Don Olsen for an outstanding demonstration last month. I've yet to figure out why you you'd want to make a bowl with two tops and no bottom, but that's Don. (just kidding) We've got lots going on this spring so let me spend the rest of this message covering it.

We will be offering the scholarship for tuition at JC Campbell Folk Art School. As in the past if you wish to be considered, please give your name to Mary at the next meeting. We will draw one name to receive 50% of the tuition from the school and NCW will provide the other half upon submission of a report on the experience for publication in the Journal. The lucky winner will be responsible for room and board and ½ the tuition until he/she is reimbursed as noted above.

We will have two booths at the Charlotte Woodworking Show, March 12-14. We'll need volunteers to work the booth. We want to display lots of NCW members work and will be demonstrating woodturning throughout the show. More details will be shared at February meeting.

The AAW has announced a Japanese Exchange Program with the Far Eastern Woodturners. This 4-week program is for an individual between ages of 16 and 22. Deadline for applications is March 1, 2004. Call AAW office for more information.

J.T. Barker is leading the 2004 Local Chapter Collaborative. He'll need the help of 6 to 8 NCW members in this project. We'll take our entry to the 2004 AAW Symposium that will be held July 23-25 at the Caribe Royale Resort in Orlando, Florida. See you there!

The February Challenge will be natural edge turning. We'll give a \$15 gift certificate to the winner.

I will not be at the February meeting, as I will be attending a family reunion. I trust that each of you will remember your significant other with a Valentine as our next meeting is on Valentine's Day.

There will be a board meeting at lunch in the Klingspor lunchroom conducted by Ric Erkes.

Keep on turning, Ron

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## PROGRAM NOTES

By Ric Erkes

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Okay, all you bowl turners out there. You've heard about them and maybe even have done a few, but next month you can see how it is really done. If the most recent AAW Magazine wet your appetite for Pen turning, then get ready for the full course meal. Greg Wilson, who has turned upwards of 3000 pens will be demonstrating for us in February. He has turned exotics, antler, acrylics, even aluminum and corn cobs into more than 30 different varieties of pens. He specializes in applying a CA finish but will be discussing other choices as well. Greg will take us through each step of the way from material selection, design choices, stabilizing, and finishing. Now, which way did that bushing go?



As a sneak preview, here is what we have lined up for this year:

- 14 Feb. Greg Wilson Pen Turning 1-4
- 13 Mar. John Lucas Inside Out Turning and Photography 10-4
- 10 Apr. Terry Daniel Professional Bowl Turning on a bowl lathe 10-4
- 8 May Chris Stott Boxes and Off-center pieces 10-4
- 12 Jun. Steve Ainsworth Vessel in a Vessel and Metal Spinning 10-4
- 10 Jul. Open
- 14 Aug. Open
- 11 Sep. Bart Castlebury Turkey Calls 1-4
- 9 Oct. Don Geiger Mastering the Side Ground Bowl Gouge 10-4
- 13 Nov. Dwight Hartsell Surface Treatments 1-4

As you can see we continue to have a diverse group of demonstrators planned for this year. I have a few ideas to fill Jul and Aug, but would rather hear your ideas. Let me know, because I'd like to fill them in the next month or so.

**Next Meeting: Feb. 14th at 1:00 pm; Demonstrator: Greg Wilson, Pen Turning**

## The Soul of The Tree!

demonstrator review by Jack Freeman



Our own Don Olsen shared his skills and humor with us at our January 2004 meeting. Don obviously has a great command of his tools and his imagination to create his "signature" piece. He turns an "Object de' Art" from a whole log or limb in a most unique way. He brought several finished pieces to the gallery to demonstrate the versatility of the piece.

He begins by centering a faceplate on the pith, he stated that the pith might go through the center of the limb, but hopefully will travel in a straight line. The piece he was demonstrating was approximately 10" long and 8" in diameter with the pith offset to one side as most limbs are. By removing the pith he wants to minimize cracking and checking.



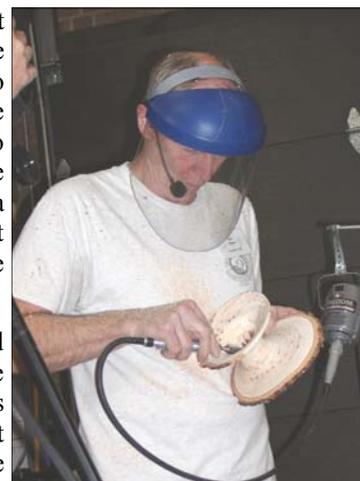
He demonstrated his personal tool supply including a boring bar used to hold 1/4" bits held in with a setscrew and a "stout" bowl gouge. He calls the boring bar with bit a Carpenter Ant Tool. He does bring up the tailstock to support the piece but he does not use the live center point to hold the wood. Don prefers a round tool rest as opposed to

the knife-edge style. He has modified his with a 5/8-eye bolt on the end of the rest that he uses to support the boring bar. He feels that there is significantly less effort demanded from the craftsman when you can use the eyebolt for leverage when cutting. He does use a very long handle on the tool so that he can hold it between his arm and body.



He begins by removing bark and wood from the center of the piece in a spindle manner. He then moves to the end grain and begins to remove wood from the interior of the log, he intends to retain the "natural edge" in the final piece. He continued to remove woodworking toward a 1/4" thickness. As he moved through the log he showed how the "soul of the tree" is exposed. I was impressed with the number of times Don stopped to check thickness or thinness of his work.

He then moved to the part that I did not anticipate, he used a coring tool to define the edge near the faceplate and finally to release the piece from the lathe. He then used a carving drill to smooth out any imperfections from the surface.



This was a very good demonstration, I have attempted to duplicate his work, it is very different and I plan to complete one soon. Give it a try.



# Multi-Center Turned Feet

By John Uteck



I have to thank Don Oetjen and Ric Erkes with the North Carolina Woodturners Association for inspiring me to add interest to the bottom of my bowls and platters. I had been experimenting on paper with designs for carving the feet, and came up with this idea for turning a foot using multi-centers instead of carving out individual feet.

Since I had some 13" wide kiln-dried maple that I wanted to make a functional platter from, I decided a 6" foot would give me plenty of stability. The following photographs and descriptions illustrate the method I used for turning the feet on multi-centers. As usual for platters, dry wood is preferred.

If you want to try this multi-center turning for a different sized foot, you will need to sketch it on paper first, and work out the sizes for the off-center grooves. Remember with the 1" offset centers, the maximum platter diameter you can turn is 1" less than the height of your spindle (or 2" less than your swing diameter).

1. Mark the center of your blank on what will be the top of the platter.
2. Draw a 1" radius circle.
3. Draw a circle to your desired finish size – 6-1/2" radius for this platter. Keep your compass set at this setting.
4. Mark off 6 equal lengths along the outer circle using the same compass setting from step 3.
5. Connect every other mark to the center, marking off three equal sections.



6. Drill a 3/8" hole, 1" deep (depending on your screw chuck), in the center, and at each of the three locations on the 1" center circle.
7. If you have a bandsaw, rough cut a round blank.



8. Mount the blank in the center hole using a screw center, then tighten it so it completely seats on the chuck jaws.



9. Rough turn bottom of the platter, and true up the edges. Keep the foot area oversized, say 8" diameter, and at least 1/4" thick.



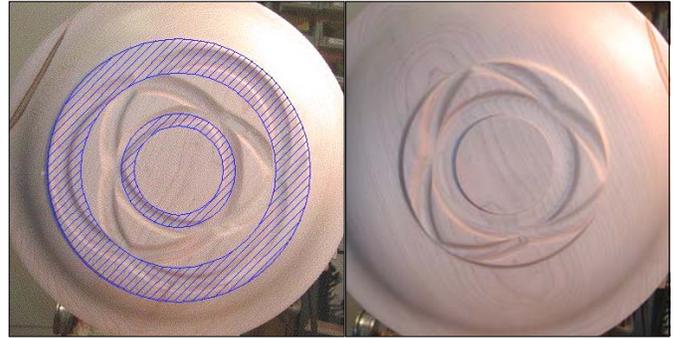
10. Remove platter from screw chuck, and re-mount in one of the off-center holes.
11. Layout the first off-center groove. Mark the new offset center on the bottom of the platter using your live center and bringing the tailstock up to the wood. Running the lathe at slow speed, measure and mark a 2-1/2" radius circle, and a 3" radius circle from the center point.

12. Cut a groove about 1/4" deep between the two marked lines, and sand the groove through to your final grit.



turning the top of the platter.

20. Cut a groove about 1/4" deep, and 1/2" wide to the inside edge of the feet.
21. Finish shaping the bottom of the platter and outside edges of the feet as you desire. Sand to your final grit.



13. Remove platter from screw chuck, and re-mount in second off-center hole.
14. Layout the second groove using the same method as the first groove. Mark the new center, then measure and mark a 2-1/2" radius circle, and a 3" radius circle.
15. Cut a groove about 1/4" deep, and sand the groove through to your final grit.



22. Remove the platter from the screw chuck, reverse, and mount on your chuck, clamping onto the tenon.
23. Turn the top of the platter to your desired profile and thickness, and sand to your final grit.



16. Remove platter from screw chuck, and re-mount in third off-center hole.
17. Mark, cut, and sand the third groove like the other two.

24. Reverse turn the platter (I used a vacuum chuck) to remove the tenon, and sand through to your final grit.
25. Sign, date, and finish your platter.



18. Remove platter from screw chuck, and re-mount in center hole.
19. Mark the center, then measure and mark a 1-1/2" radius circle. This will be the tenon that you will chuck onto for

**Member News** - by Mary Bachand

Our January meeting was a great one for renewing memberships and getting new members. I do hope that I got everything straightened out correctly. Anyway, I sent a stack of checks to our treasurer George Wunker plus I wrote a check to cover those of you who give me cash. We do welcome Jeff Cleveland of Charlotte, NC, Dixon Free of Lincolnton, NC, Maurice Isbell of Lewisville, NC, David Miller of Newton, NC (David has been away for a few years but is now back with us.), Derek Stryker of Statesville, NC, and Van Vlaendeken of Tryon, NC.

The name tag box will be rearranged so be sure that you check the number on the back of your name tag for your correct slot. Also attached to your name tag will be your 2004 membership card good for a discount at Klingspor's.

**Library News** - by Mary Bachand

Please take advantage of our huge library. In January we added the three videos from the 2003 AAW Symposium and 6 videos from the 2003 Carolinas Woodturning Symposium.

**New Members**

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

**Wanted - Basic Woodworking Instructor** for Camp Grimes Boy Scout Camp, located near Marion, NC. Job for 8 weeks during the summer. Contact Dennis McGarry 704-342-9324 or NCW club member Jim Miles 704-661-0600.

**Classifieds** - Place your free ad in the newsletter!

**Doing a demo or a show??** Let us know, and we'll include the details in the next month's newsletter.

**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.
- 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.

**Call J.T. Barker at (828) 728-9406 if you are interested in participating in the 2004 AAW Collaborative Challenge for the North Carolina Woodturners.**



During the 2004 American Association of Woodturners Eighteenth Annual Symposium, in Orlando, Florida, the Chapters and Membership Committee will again hold a "Chapter Collaborative Challenge." This event will again be in lieu of any other chapter displays at the symposium.

Each AAW chapter is invited to *submit one collaborative work* created by as many chapter members as possible, with a *minimum of six participants*.

- The work can be any turned object, functional or not.
- **NOTE: New this year.** The size limit of the Collaborative piece is 12" x 12" x 12".
- The names of all participants must be on the work or on an accompanying nameplate.
- At least one chapter representative must be in attendance at the symposium to be responsible for displaying and return shipping of the entry.
- Any electric/electronic device in the piece must have an obvious power switch for safety and noise reduction.

Chapters must specify in which one of the following three categories they wish to submit their entry:

- Artistic
- Mechanical (or Technical)
- Fantasy

The pieces will be displayed during the symposium in an area near the Instant Gallery. During the symposium, attendees will be invited to select, by ballot, their choice for Best of Show and, in addition, their favorite piece in each of the three categories above. The votes will be tallied prior to the Annual Banquet and Auction, and the winners will be recognized. A total of four prizes will be awarded as follows:

- Best of Show Plaque
- First Place Plaque (in each of the three categories)

An engraved plaque will be awarded to the Best of Show winner. A larger perpetual plaque, engraved with the names of the Best of Show winners, beginning with the 1998 symposium in Akron, will reside in the AAW office. All entries will receive a certificate of participation.

The Board has elected again to include donated Chapter Collaborative pieces in the live auction with the provision that no minimum bid may be allowed. A chapter whose entry is donated to the Educational Fund auction will receive 50% of the selling price in return for their generosity. Any entry that is donated to the auction must be accompanied by a box and packing materials for shipment to its new home. Shipping the work to the buyer is the joint responsibility of the chapter and the buyer.

We encourage your chapter to get involved. The chapters that have participated in the past have found the challenge to be an exciting local activity and has built camaraderie and stronger chapter programs.

**2004 Challenge Projects**

January - Platters. Challenge Winner - Don Oetjen.



February - Natural Edges.

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

Challenge winners will receive a gift certificate, and have a photo of their piece printed on the color pages of the newsletter.

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Walnut display stand for the Charlotte Air Marshall's office, to display a piece of the World Trade Center --- by Jim Falowski

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: February 14th at 1:00 pm**