



# *North Carolina* **WOODTURNER**

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

Volume 15, Number 04

April 2005



Polychromatic Platter by Russ Fairfield

**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

By David Kaylor

I was sorry to miss the March meeting, which I understand went very well without me. I understand that Jim Miles presented an excellent demonstration; thanks to him for sharing his knowledge and experience. Those of us who missed can benefit from the Demonstrator Review in [next month's] journal.

The Board of Directors continued to discuss and plan for our November Symposium, November 5-6 in Statesville. The Symposium will be jointly sponsored by our club and the Greensboro and Raleigh clubs. Be ready to volunteer for various jobs as our planners call on you for help. Mark the dates on your calendar now and plan to attend what promises to be an excellent opportunity to expand your knowledge of turning.

Bill Rucker, a friend of John Winslett, appeared before the Board to inform us that John's widow, Jean, wants to honor John's deep commitment to our club by donating John's wood. The plan is for Ron Mechling to bring a load to our April meeting. Members can take the wood without charge, but the Board is asking that in return contributions be made to the club. All donations will be added to the generous gift of \$1000 which Brad Packard made to honor John. The Board is considering ways the money can best be used as a memorial to John and to enhance the work of North Carolina Woodturners. Suggestions for the use of the funds will be welcomed by the Board.

Thanks to Mary for getting the new directories, name tags and membership

cards prepared. If you did not pick yours up at the last meeting, please do so at our April meeting.

The 19th Annual AAW Symposium will take place in Overland park, Kansas, July 22-24. Registration forms are available in the Spring issue of American Woodturner, or you may register online at [www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org).

Ric Erkes has lined up an interesting program for April 9: Russ Fairfield will demonstrate turning polychromatic platters. The program begins at 10. The Board will meet at lunch

See you then,  
David

**Library News** - by Mary Bachand

I have received a new book-Beneath the Bark, Twenty-five Years of Woodturning- by Kip Christensen and Dale Nish. I'm still open for ideas on items to buy.

**Member News** - by Mary Bachand

Did you pick up your new membership card and 2005 directory? I still had a pile after our meeting. I only seem to have made 2 big mistakes so please correct your journal.

We only have one Joe Morris-sorry for my goof.

I completely left out the next one so please add him. Apologies, again!

Mike Schmid 126 Foxfield Park Dr., Mooresville, NC 28115 (704) 662-6893 [schmidrus@aol.com](mailto:schmidrus@aol.com)

Please let me know of other mistakes.

**Program Notes** - by Ric Erkes

Polychromatic plates. That says it all, right? For the Rednecks among us, (since I'm watching Jeff Foxworthy while I write this) that means a plate with a lot of colors. Just kidding, but actually I'm not sure how to describe a polychromatic plate, much less how Russ Fairfield turns one. I'll leave the description up to a 1000 word picture.



Russ Fairfield will be our demonstrator this month. Russ lives in Idaho and has been turning for over 20 years. Add another 30 years of woodworking on top of that and he brings a wealth of skill and knowledge. Russ is a frequent contributor on the WoodCentral web site. I personally credit Russ with teaching me how to sand with an article he posted. If you have a question about finishes, Russ is the one you want to talk to. I contacted Russ over two years ago asking him to do a demo for us, and I'm sure it will be worth the wait.

If you would like a sampling of Russ's expertise, go to Woodcentral.com and click on "Russ's Corner" on the right hand side.

This will be an all day meeting from 10 until 4.

**Next Meeting: April 9th at 10:00 am**  
**Demonstrator: Russ Fairfield**  
**Demonstration: Polychromatic plates**



**Meet at Klingspor's in Hickory, 856  
21st Street Dr. SE (828-326-9663)**

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE APRIL 29**

**NCW Calendar of Events**

- Apr. 9 - Russ Fairfield - Polychromatic platters.
- May 14 - Elvie Jackson - hollowing.
- June 11 - John Penrod—lidded vessels.
- July 9 - Don Olsen - "Various Ways to Turn Crotches"
- November 5-6 - Carolina Symposium.**
- December - Holiday Festival.

**2005 Challenge Projects**

- April - Celebrate daylight savings time at 2 a.m. on the first Sunday of April - turn a clock or watch.
- May - alternative materials - including tagua nuts or banksia pods (available at Klingspors), alabaster, or other.
- June - plywood project.
- July - 2x4's - use no more than one 8' long 2x4.
- August - turn a bird, animal, fish, etc. - either multi-center turning, or multiple turnings joined.
- September - then and now! Bring in one of your early turnings, and one of your recent ones.
- October - wearables - something to wear.
- November - Symposium Gallery.
- December - birdhouse ornaments.

**Utah Woodturning Symposium**

June 16th, 17th, and 18th, 2005  
Brigham Young University  
www.utahwoodturning.com

The Utah Woodturning Symposium is the longest running woodturning symposium in the world. The year 2005 marks the 26th anniversary of the event. Participants can select from over 100 demonstrations given by some of the best woodturners in the world. The presentations will have something for everyone, from the beginner to the professional. The symposium is open to anyone with an interest in woodturning.

**AAW Woodturning Symposium**

The 19th Annual National AAW Symposium, July 22-24, 2005  
Overland Park Convention Center  
Overland Park, Kansas  
(suburban Kansas City)

**Turning Southern Style XI Woodturning Symposium**

hosted by the Georgia Association of Woodturners - www.gawoodturner.com

11th annual event to feature world-renowned woodturners, a woodturning

art auction, and educational events

The Georgia Association of Woodturners, dedicated to providing education, information, and organization to those interested in woodturning, will be presenting Turning Southern Style XI Woodturning Symposium. This year's event will again be held at the Unicoi State Park and Lodge in Helen, Georgia on September 16-18, 2005.

The featured turners include Rex Burningham, Christian Burchard, and Don Duden.

This year's symposium will also feature an "Instant Gallery" and auction. The gallery will display over 100 exquisite examples of woodturned art by woodturners throughout the Southeast. The woodturning auction held on Saturday night is open to the public free of charge and all proceeds will be used for woodturning education and training through GAW's scholarship program.

The cost for single participants is \$ 125 and \$145 for families. There is a \$10 discount for early registration by September 1, 2005. Registration is limited to 200.



**NORTH CAROLINA WOODTURNER**  
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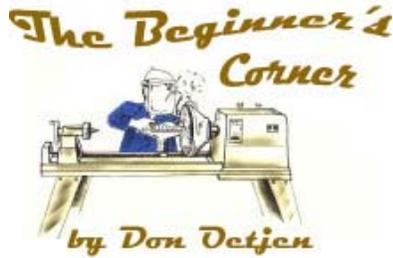
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We are finally to the last phase of completing the bowl. I hope this series has been helpful to you. If it has, write and tell me. If it hasn't write and tell me what I could have done differently that would have made it better. I'd also welcome any comments or suggestions from some of our more experienced turners.

A vacuum pump setup is a great way to do the final steps of finishing the bottom of a bowl but it is an expense many turners have yet to undertake. I turned bowls for ten years before I got my vacuum setup but here's how to do it efficiently and cheaply.

First you need a piece of 3/4" plywood about an inch larger in diameter than the bowl rim diameter. Mount it on a screw chuck or other holding and cut a groove 1/4" deep so that the bowl rim fits in snugly. If you overshoot a bit just use paper towels to take up the slack. Then wrap it carefully with tan colored masking tape as shown in the photograph. Be sure you use the tan masking tape not the blue colored tape. The blue does not have the holding power of the tan. The last of the tape should wrap the circumference of the



plywood to hold down the ends. Then cut off the extra ends of the tape. You don't want them flapping around distracting you while you do the bottom cuts.

You'll find that this method holds the bowl quite firmly but I do turn carefully and take light cuts. Bring up the tail stock and do as much of the bottom as you can. Where possible cut with the pressure toward the headstock. The nub left is where I feel the risk of coming off is the greatest so I always saw off the nub rather than use a parting tool.



Some one once told me that a buyer on looking at the bottom should get a little surprise, something unexpected. I've chosen to put a few circular lines and some texturing on the bottom. It doesn't have to be elaborate, simple works, too.



The final step in preparation is to put your name and type of wood on the bottom. If you want to keep a record of your work put on an identifying number or code. I use a permanent marker pen to do this then spray a coat of lacquer

over it. Many finishes such as the gel polyurethane I use will cause the marking to run unless protected. Use what ever finish you prefer to finalize the work.

Lets recap what I've tried to convey as mistakes you want to avoid.

1. Cut the log to assure that the pattern in the bottom of the bowl will be symmetrical.
2. Avoid a clunky bowl. The appearance should match the weight. Even a large bowl shouldn't be over 1/2" thick. Try for a uniform wall thickness.
3. Circular rings or a wavy inside bottom sends a very poor message. Use a scrapper and do the best job you can then do the final correction with sanding. Stop the lathe and power sand with the grain.
4. There must never be evidence of hollowing. If you don't own a scroll chuck then allow plenty of wood for the screws of a face plate so the holes can be turned off when you finish the bottom.
5. A flat bottom doesn't look very good besides it will probably warp and no longer sit flat. A thin ring is a much better choice. Putting some decoration like lines or texturing of some kind will show that the bottom was turned and provide that little surprise when it's turned over.

I'll bring the finished bowl to the next meeting.

*Each month Don will have tips, techniques and suggestions which will be of most interest to those members who are in the early stage of their turning career. If any member has a question or subject they would like to see covered send an e-mail to Don at [donoetjen@aol.com](mailto:donoetjen@aol.com).*

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 9th at 10:00 am**