



North Carolina WOODTURNER

Journal of the North Carolina Woodturners Association

January 2006

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Mahogany, Walnut, and Maple
by Barb Ward, August 2004

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Wood of the Month SYCAMORE

If you have any, turn it and bring it in for the gallery. If you want to know more about it, Russell Willis will discuss it during the January meeting.



A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

The President's Message

by Sam McDowell

In a recent memo from David Kaylor he stated that he was no longer the lame duck president but the dead duck. I guess that makes me the new sitting duck. So we start a new year at NCW. I first want to thank every one who has put so much into making 2005 a very good year. We had a lot great presentations to learn from, the Klingspor Extravaganza to share our hobby with others, a symposium that helps our learning (and our budget), then top it all with a wonderful gathering for a Christmas Party. Thanks.

This year I hope will be bigger and better. Barb Ward and friends will be working on the demo schedule for us. Along with the demonstration each month we have the Challenge Projects. I encourage us all to participate. Barb has suggested we add a Tree of the Month

talk. I think this a good idea. Some one each month will get up and give a brief talk a given tree- identify, characteristics, turning etc.

The gallery is some thing that I feel should be emphasized. You do not get better at anything unless you push yourself and compete. I also encourage you to get up and explain your work. You never know who in the audience might learn from you. In the past we had a section of the gallery that would be critiqued in open forum by some more experienced members. This was done only as constructive criticism. Perhaps we could do this again.

The overall theme for me this year is participation. In any endeavor, what you get out of it is directly proportional to what you put into it. To that end I ask

for your inputs. Please let me, Barb or any board member know what you would like to see or do at your meeting. I will also be asking people to help along the way.

I hope that a year from now we will have seen our club grow in size, skills and enthusiasm. That will happen with your help. Feel free to send me an email (sjmcd@adelphia.net) or call (704-871-9801) with suggestions of how to make things better.

Sam McDowell

"The overall theme for me this year is participation."

Membership & Library News

by Mary Bachand

Membership: Welcome new member Robert Yacano of Mount Airy, NC.

Thanks to the very colorful reminders from our editor John, approximately half of you have already sent in your 2006 membership renewals.

I have had several requests for 2006 membership cards. As we have been sending bright renewal forms for several journals, the January meeting will be the cutoff date for our new directory. That way I can give out membership cards and directories at the February meeting.

SO--if you haven't taken care of that little piece of business, please do so at our January meeting. If you can't attend, please mail yours to me soon. Thank you.

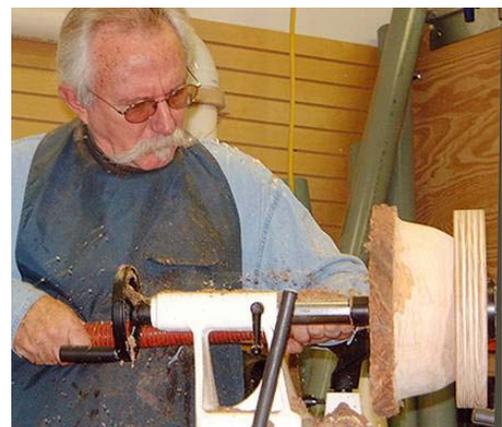
Library: All rentals are due at the January meeting or mail them to me.

We have added the DVD "Beginning Spindles to Bowls" by one of our symposium demonstrators, Joe Ruminski.

Program Notes

by Barb Ward

Jerry Whitehurst, president of the Virginia Tidewater Turners, will be demonstrating for us starting at 10 am on January 14th. Jerry will demonstrate a safe method to turn your pieces using a Back board system and your tail stock. Beginners, as well as advanced turners will appreciate the savings when they realize they no longer have to buy those "high dollar" expanding chucks, or spend time making glue blocks. His demo will include turning natural edges, square, and rectangular pieces (if time allows).





Turnings by
Jerry
Whitehurst



It shall be the purpose of the North Carolina Woodturners Association to promote an interest in wood turning for persons of all levels of competence, whether they are beginners or advanced professionals; to provide information, education, and hands-on experience for all members; to encourage creativity and to explore new methods and techniques for advancing wood turning as a creative craft and as a unique art form; and to encourage membership in, and give support to, the American Association of Woodturners.



The AAW is an international, nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of woodturning. The Association's purpose is to foster a wider understanding and appreciation of lathe-turning as a traditional and contemporary craft and a form of art among the general public, hobbyist turners, part-time turners, and professional turners. This will be accomplished by providing education, information, organization, technical assistance, and publications relating to woodturning.

News from the AAW

I have recently been appointed to "chair" the AAW Educational Opportunity Grant (EOG) committee. The purpose of this email is to introduce myself and to provide a reminder that the January 15th EOG application deadline is soon approaching. Being able to receive an educational grant is a major benefit of AAW membership. Details pertaining to the

EOG application process may be viewed on the AAW website at: <http://www.woodturner.org/resources/eog/>

The application form is also available for download from this same web page. I realize that there is not much time remaining, but the application process is quite simple. The AAW board encourages all chapters and individual

members to take advantage of this opportunity to improve and upgrade their woodturning educational efforts. Please forward this message to your chapter members and direct any questions to me.

Malcolm Tibbetts
AAW EOG Chairman
malcolm@tahoeturner.com

Next Meeting: January 14th at 10:00 am

Demonstrator: Jerry Whitehurst

Demonstration: Turning with a backboard system (without a chuck)



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

The Beginner's Corner



This month I welcome Barb Ward as a guest columnist to the Beginners Corner. I thank her for her contribution. Guys, be sure your wife reads this one.

This article is for all the ladies out there who may be interested in woodturning but are a bit intimidated by the fact that it is a predominantly male hobby. My advice:

Don't let the testosterone levels of woodturning clubs scare you.

One Saturday a few years ago, I decided to attend a meeting of the North Carolina Woodturners in Hickory. I didn't know what to expect, had never been to a woodturning club meeting in my life, and was very much a beginner to woodturning. Although I was definitely a minority (there were only two other women in the room), I felt very comfortable and welcome in this room full of woodturners. Everyone was very friendly, many stepped up to introduce themselves, welcome me to the meeting, and encourage me to join the club. My fears of not fitting in immediately dissolved and I really enjoyed myself. And the added bonus....there were wonderful homemade goodies to eat, compliments of Mary Bachand! I don't remember who the speaker was at that meeting, but I do remember thinking that a lot of it was way over my head, and "riding the bevel" seemed to be a popular phrase. I realized that I had a lot to learn and that I could definitely benefit from being a member of this club. I joined the NCW that day and I

"This article is for all the ladies out there who may be interested in woodturning....."

try to attend as many meetings as I can. I became interested in woodturning quite by accident. My husband, Terry, and I began the process of building a log home (our dream home) several years ago. We didn't really intend to do a lot of the custom woodworking ourselves, but the labor costs for doing a lot of the jobs were way more than we were willing to spend, so we often found ourselves knee-deep in one woodworking project or another. Along the way, we accumulated many power tools and our basement gradually started looking like a little Home Depot. It was during this time that I discovered how much I loved woodworking. Terry often jokes that I am the only woman he knows that prefer power tools over jewelry.

An old 10" Rockwell lathe eventually wound up in our basement along with all the other stuff. This lathe had been collecting dust in my friend's garage for the past 15 years (she had inherited it from an uncle) and when she saw how interested I had become in woodworking, she passed it on to me. It wasn't until that lathe showed up in our basement that I even thought about woodturning. I enjoyed learning how to

turn wood on that little lathe, even though it would shake, rattle, and roll whenever I turned it on.

I saved my pennies and in 2004 I bought myself a brand new Powermatic 3520. I still have the 10" Rockwell, and wouldn't dream of getting rid of it since it was such a great gift from a good friend. Unfortunately I'm not able to devote as much time to woodturning as I would like. Work and other commitments often get in the way and I go for long spells with no time for woodworking, so I haven't improved my woodturning skills very much. But I did learn a few things very early on, one of which is to always double check the tightness of the chuck jaws before turning the lathe on. I never again want to have to dodge a flying bowl as it ricochets off my basement walls. I still gouge too many of my bowls and I rely heavily on 80 grit sandpaper. But I tell myself that it's the end result that counts and you just do whatever it takes to get a nice finished piece, even if it means hours of sanding.

Eventually I became interested in segmented woodturning and now I actually prefer it over turning a single



Barb's Basement

block of wood. The possible combinations of colors and designs are limited only by one's imagination. It's a lot more time consuming, requiring precise segment cutting, assembling, and gluing before finally putting the piece on the lathe to turn. But if you have the time and the patience, the end result can be very rewarding. I have been inspired by many segmented woodturners. Some of them have written books and/or have their own websites. Here are a few:

Malcolm Tibbetts - "The Art of Segmented Woodturning" - www.tahoeturner.com

Ray Allen - "Woodturning with Ray Allen"

Richard Pagano
www.beaverpondstudio.com

Kevin Neelley
www.turnewood.com

Linda Salter
www.woodturningplus.com/lhalter.htm

Our club library has a few books on segmented woodturning including the two books mentioned above.

I enjoy being a member of the North Carolina Woodturners. The club offers so much help to its members - books, videos, guest speakers, hands-on sessions, newsletter articles, and an important connection with other turners.

So ladies, if you're interested in the art of woodturning, or if you're just curious as to what exactly your "other half" is doing down there in the basement or out in the garage, come to one of our club meetings. I guarantee you will have a good time, there will be wonderful homemade goodies to eat, and you won't have to wait in line for the ladies bathroom!

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.

Casting Pewter Rings on Small Turnings

by Darrell Larue, Oakville ON (reprinted from WoodCentral.com with permission from the author)

I'm always looking for something new to add to my woodworking projects. Kathy tried turning some pens recently, and she bought a bunch of kits, enough so that I could give it a try too. Scott Grandstaff posted a message on the Oldtools email list about putting pewter rings on tool handles. His email provided me with the inspiration and technique for this project. This was my first attempt at turning a pen, and I wanted to make it a bit more interesting, not being satisfied with a first attempt at one thing, I had to try two new things at once.

Pewter is a soft alloy, mostly tin, that melts at a very low temperature, only a couple hundred degrees. It polishes to a bright silver colour, which is especially pretty against darker woods. Pewter is easily worked with normal woodturning chisels, so long as they're sharp. My chisels are old carbon steel tools, and they worked fine on the pewter.

Preparing the Turning.

I used a skew chisel to incise the boundaries of the groove for the ring. This produced nice clean edges.



Follow up with a parting tool to clear the waste. I went about 3/32" deep or perhaps a bit more. On a pen you don't have a lot of material to work with so I left this part of the pen rather fat. In retrospect I could have made the pen narrower at this point, and the groove shallower, and the pen would have had a more sleek look.

Making the Mold.

You need something to contain the molten metal whilst it cools. Scott said masking tape worked for him, so that's what I used.



I put four layers of tape on either side of the groove. Burnish it well, so it sticks. You don't want the tape coming loose and spilling metal all over the place. Then you lay in some waxed or greased cord to fill the groove and to make the tape retain some shape when you burnish it. I used a piece of an old shoe lace coated with paste wax. The wax is to keep the tape from sticking to the cord.



Now add on more layers of tape over everything, leaving an opening where the ends of the cord protrude. Burnish the tape so it sticks firmly.



Now carefully withdraw the cord, leaving a ring-shaped cavity under the tape, and a hole where you can pour in the molten metal. Scott said he sometimes makes a



cone from masking tape and adds some plaster of Paris around the opening to support the cone. This enables you to get some pressure in the mold so it fills the cavities better. My ring was so small I decided not to use anything more than just the tape.

Casting Equipment:

My casting setup is an old soup can, a

pair of pliers, and a camp stove. Very low-tech, almost No-tech. I used a vise screwed to a scrap of wood to hold the work. My source of pewter was a plate I bought at a garage sale for \$1. You may have to look at antique or junk shops or flea markets for a dented sugar bowl or bent pewter spoons. You might even be able to buy pewter ingots, but I'm too cheap to even look for a source of retail pewter. I cut up the plate with a hatchet and put a bunch of pieces into the can.

Pouring the Pewter:

Fire up your stove and melt the metal. It only takes five minutes or so. Put a pan or something under your work to catch any spills. I used an aluminum container from some take-out Chinese food. The



spilled pewter (once cooled) can be tossed back in the melting pot for next time. Pour quickly and carefully. Try to hit one side of the hole in the tape so that the metal flows around and up to the other side. Now you can shut off the heat and let everything cool down.

Back to The Lathe:

Remove the tape and trim off any big lumps with side cutters. If there are any voids in the casting, Scott told me I

could try pouring more pewter into the cavity, or melt some in with a soldering



iron. Mine was okay. Return the work to the lathe and turn down the ring to match the surrounding surface. I took very light cuts with a freshly sharpened spindle gouge, followed by a skew.

Finish and polish the turning as usual, being careful not to contaminate the area around the pewter ring with sanding dust from the metal, especially when using a light colored wood. I found that a sharp skew chisel left the best surface, which sandpaper only dulled.



I followed the pen with a couple of magic wands for "The Kidz", they're big Harry Potter fans. *Darrell Larue, Oakville ON*



2006 Challenge Projects

- * January - bottle stoppers, napkin rings, or flower holders.
- * February - crotch turning.
- * March - texturing, carving and finishes.
- * April - polychromatic, layered, laminated, segmented, pegging, inlays, or stave construction.
- * May - Alabaster turning (main challenge); natural edge bowl (secondary challenge).
- * June - bowl (but not just any bowl - make it "special", and tell us why!).
- * July - hollowing.
- * August - lidded vessels.
- * September - toothpick holder or pen/pencil holder.
- * October - goblet.
- * November - Multi-center or offset turning.
- * December - finials and icicles.

NCW Calendar of Events

- * January 14 @ 10 am - Jerry Whitehurst
- * February 11 @ 1 pm - James Moore
- * March 11 @ 10 am - Cindy Drozda
- * April 8 - TBD
- * May 13 - TBD
- * June 10 - TBD
- * July 8 - TBD
- * August 12 - TBD
- * September 9 - TBD
- * October 14 - TBD
- * November 11 - TBD
- * December 9 - TBD

Want to learn something new about woodturning?

If you are interested in learning new skills, or improving the skills you have, contact one of these NCW members:

- * Dean Amos (Sandy Ridge, NC) 336-871-2916.
- * Gene Dampier (Banner Elk, NC) 828-898-6143.
- * Edgar Ingram (Statesville, NC) 704-876-4576.
- * David Kaylor (Davidson, NC) 704-892-8554.
- * Glenn Mace (Mocksville, NC) 336-751-1001.
- * Sam McDowell (Statesville, NC) 704-871-9801.
- * Grant McRorie (Rutherfordton, NC) 828-288-9572.
- * Ron Mechling (Shelby, NC) 704-487-0506.
- * Jim Miles (Cornelius, NC) 704-661-0600.
- * Dick Nielson (Gastonia, NC) 704-864-1742.
- * Don Olsen (Lincolnton, NC) 704 735-9335.

... or see what's offered at one of these Woodturning Schools

Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts
Gatlinburg, TN
865-436-5860
(www.arrowmont.org)

Ice House Center
Davidson, NC
(704) 892-7323
(www.icehousecenter.org)

John C. Campbell Folk School
Brasstown, NC
1-800-FOLK SCH
(www.folkschool.com)

If you want to volunteer as a mentor, please contact John Uteck with your information to include in the newsletter.



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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: January 14th at 10:00 am

Christmas Party Photos - December 10, 2005

(thanks to Sharon Lochaby for the photos)



North Carolina Woodturners Association Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email Address _____ Do you want to receive NCW email notices? Y / N

Where did you learn of the NCW? _____

Mail with check made payable to NC Woodturners to:
North Carolina Woodturners Association
Mary Bachand, Secretary
296 Laurel Park Place, Hendersonville, NC 28791

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date received: _____ Check #: _____

Received by: _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual membership dues are \$35.00; after April 1st, \$30.00; after July 1st, \$25.00; after October 1st, \$40.00, which includes the following year.

Members are encouraged to join the American Association of Woodturners. AAW membership includes a subscription to American Woodturner, a quarterly publication filled with quality information about woodturning.