



North Carolina WOODTURNER

Journal of the North Carolina Woodturners Association

February 2006

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Flower Holder by Patricia Allen
January 2006 Challenge Project Winner



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AAW SYMPOSIUM Louisville, Kentucky

Thursday, June 22, 2006
through Saturday the 24th

30 world class
demonstrators putting on
150 rotations in eleven
demonstration rooms.

For information, see:
www.woodturner.org



Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

The President's Message

by Sam McDowell

Let's talk about participation. Our club is a completely voluntary group (except for me - they doubled my board members pay). Without individuals participating in the every day functions, we would not be. Our club is just that - OUR club. We make it what it is. The more we put into it the more we get out of it. There are a lot of functions that go into putting on the stage play we call our meetings. Yes I see it like a stage production, with props, lights, video, seating, audio, refreshments, seating, etc. All of these things have to be setup, used, taken down, and put away.

We have some very dedicated members that have been taking care of each of these things for years in some cases. What would be very helpful is for some new volunteers pitch in and help. What I am

suggesting is to find some thing that interests you and pitch in. It does not matter if you are a new or old member. As a matter of fact you don't make many new friends sitting in a chair during a demo. If you are a person that gets there early, then feel free to help set up the chairs, coffee, library. We can use some one that understands video to learn (perhaps organize) our video system, so that we are not dependent on just one person. Last year we passed around a roster to indicate areas that you would be willing to help in. We will expand on that idea.

The gallery is an easy way to participate. For a new member to get up and show their work is what we are all about. We learn a lot by seeing what and how others turn & finish their work. This month we will have a section in the gallery set aside for

critique, either public or private. You know that you are not likely to improve your work if every one tells you it is "beautiful, perfect". Critiques will be of a constructive nature. I will be the first up to show two pieces and why I think one is better than the other. Even if you do not have some thing critiqued, please bring something to share.

Please let me or any of the board members know what you think will improve our participation and therefore our club.

Sam

Let's talk about participation.

Program Notes

by Barb Ward

Our very own NCW member, Jim Moore, will be demonstrating his pen turning method from start to finish. Jim is a retired nuclear engineer from the Charleston Naval Shipyard. He graduated from Appalachian State University in 1973 with an Earth Science major. Jim started wood turning in 1999 after being diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis. His doctor told him the best thing he

could do is get up and do something so he threw himself into woodturning. Jim is also a member of the AAW and is a former member of the Tidewater Turners in Virginia. He will discuss many aspects of pen turning including making a profit from these "Fine Writing Instruments". Jim has turned and sold several hundred pens over the years. Tool making is also on the

agenda for the afternoon. If time allows, Jim will demonstrate how to save money by making your own bull nose scrapers. This demonstration will be fun and full of information - Don't miss it!



From the Editor

We now have our own internet address (www.ncwoodturners.com) and more space available to help reduce the downloading errors for our newsletter. Check it out, and let me know suggested improvements. Starting next month, we will email all members who provided an email address with their registration forms, and begin sending electronic newsletters only. No email (?) - we will still mail your newsletter!!

Membership & Library News

by Mary Bachand

Membership: Our January meeting was one in a million! First, I was late due to ugly weather in the mountains. Second, there were SO MANY nice people wanting to join our chapter. And third, I got some "happy" treats.

I'm going to list our new members in three different categories. "Welcome back" to Jack Stewart of Charlotte, NC. Jack is one of our former presidents.

Next is "the family plan". David Allen of Newton, NC brought wife Pat and Pat shared her first turning, a nice vase, at gallery time. Cathy and John Skipper of Forest City, NC joined as another husband/wife membership. Then we got our second father/son membership. Robert and Frank Erard of Banner Elk, NC joined and, if you didn't get to see son Frank's collection of pens that he'd turned, you really missed a treat.

The third category is "I came alone" or "a friend invited me". If the friend's name is in parenthesis, that friend gets free raffle tickets. Here we go--Guy

Cad of Sagamore Hills, Ohio; David Corbett of Denver, NC (Don Olsen); Greg Crowder of Valdese, NC; Gary Doby of Dobson, NC (a "friend" but who?); Jerry Hollenbeck of Davidson, NC (Sharon Lochaby); Bill Koehler of Mt. Holly, NC (Jim Falowski); Michael McNeilly of Mooresville, NC; Michael Mills of Boca Raton, FL; Tim Smith of Iron Station, NC; Mike Pollard of Cornelius, NC (Jim Miles); and Robert Yacano of Mt. Airy, NC. Welcome to each of you!

Now for "happy treats" To you new people, I owe an explanation of sorts. I love to bake and have found a willing "consumer group" in our chapter members. When you taste English walnuts in a treat, please thank Richard Aultman. He shelled and picked out 2 gallon size bags of English walnuts which he gave to me. Whenever you taste honey in a treat, Clarence Cogdell is our "honey man". Somewhere I have a cake recipe that calls for fig preserves and coffee (from Puerto Rico, no less-the coffee that I'll use). I plan to make this cake for the February meeting. Our

president Sam McDowell provided the special ingredients. I am one lucky "den mother".

Library: Thanks to many of you I was able to spend \$93.72 ordering additions for our library. Grant McRorie had suggested the book "500 Wood Bowls" and someone said something about identifying wood so I ordered the book "Wood Identification and Use" by Terry Porter. If this isn't the book that was wanted, please let me know and there is another one that I could order. I also ordered the DVD "Making an Erosion Bowl" by Australian turner Neil Scobie. Any more requests?

I must also thank Grant for shelving so many of the returned rentals for me. It is now a simple job to do thanks to our cataloging system arranged by Jack Freeman. Of course, if we keep getting more additions, I'll have to start dropping hints for another library cabinet. I can remember the days when I took our library home after each meeting in 2 boxes.

With Sympathy

I am sad to have to let you know that one of our long-time members, Pat Fisher has lost her 16 year fight with cancer. Pat and Roy attended many of our events and Roy was a demonstrator on several occasions. Pat always had a friendly smile and a pleasant word for everyone.

A number of years ago Ken and I were

on our way to the AAW symposium in Akron, OH when we stopped at a Bob Evans restaurant in West Virginia. It was so nice to see that friendly smile as Pat greeted us in those "foreign parts".

I am so glad that I kept the sweet note that Pat sent with their membership renewal back in October. Yes, that's the

kind of person Pat was - never letting the moss grow under her feet.

I will miss seeing Pat and send our sincere sympathy to Roy.

Mary

Next Meeting: February 11th at 1:00 pm

Demonstrator: Jim Moore

Demonstration: Pen Turning and Tool Making (if time permits)

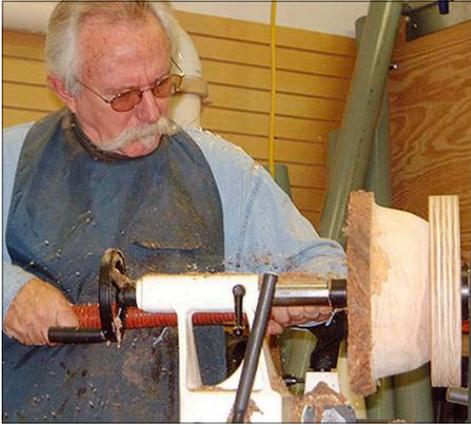


Meet at Klingspor's in Hickory, 856 21st Street Dr. SE
828-326-9663 www.woodworkingshop.com

Demonstrator Review - Jerry Whitehurst

by Ed Mackey

The demonstration at this meeting was done by Jerry Whitehurst. Jerry



is a professional turner and president of the Virginia Tidewater Turners club. Normally the reviewer gets the tape to use to assist in composing the review. Well, I got the tape ok, but the afternoon session consisted of about 10 seconds of video followed by just dark lines and audio lasting only about 2 minutes....so I might miss some key points.

The morning session consisted primarily of a discussion on Jerry's unique approach to turning, versus more conventional methods.

All of Jerry's turnings are done between centers and without the use of modern chucks and modern bowl gouges. Two headstock mechanisms were demonstrated. The cup center and what Jerry described as a backboard chuck.

Jerry shared his views on several aspects of turning and stressed that these are his personal views and practices and he is not necessarily recommending them to be incorporated by the general turning community. These include the following:

- * Jerry compared the use of the cup center to the more widely used spur center. In the event of a catch, the spur center could eat away the wood where it was embedded. If you get a catch with the cup center, the piece spins but does not get chewed up. Also, re-centering is less of an ordeal with the cup center.
- * As far as pricing goes, Jerry recommends that you determine what your hourly rate is and figure a minimum of 4 hours per piece. This would include getting the blank, truing and turning, (multiple times), sanding and finishing. Also, larger pieces will usually bring more money than smaller pieces.
- * His experience with craft shows was short lived. He found that people that go to craft shows don't like to spend more than \$50,00. Art shows have worked well for him.
- * Jerry doesn't use gouges. He claims they are too over-rated. He's not advocating that turners should throw away their gouges, but scrapers do the job for him. Scrapers are also good for beginners and easy to sharpen. While discussing tools, Jerry showed us a couple of homemade tools he made - one from a planer blade that is used for scraping and an allen wrench that was ground to include a bevel. He recommended that a file not be used because it could shatter during use.
- * Any piece over 6 inches should be supported by a steady rest.
- * Thin walled turnings are only meaningful to other woodturners.
- * Turn at slow speeds. This is a safety concern. A catch at slow speeds is not as dangerous. High

speed catches can be dangerous.

- * If air tools are used, get at least a 90 gallon capacity air compressor. Otherwise, the compressor cycles on too frequently.
- * Avoid long finger gloves. Cut the fingers off the glove to avoid getting caught.

Jerry began turning a manzanita root burl. The was mounted between centers with a cup center in the headstock and a live-center at the tailstock. A scraper was used to form the bottom and a small tenon was left with the hole from the live center. Then the piece was reversed using the marks from the cup center and live-center, and the top of the bowl was turned using a scraper. When complete, the piece was removed and the remaining nubs removed with a small air grinder.

Next, Jerry demonstrated the backboard method. The backboard is about an inch thick and mounted on a dedicated faceplate. It's about 8 inches in diameter with a 1 inch hole in the center 1 inch deep. This hole will be used to accept a 15/16th tenon. A piece of mango was mounted between centers with a cup center and live center. A 15/16 tenon was turned with a large open end 15/16th wrench serving as calipers. When the tenon was turned, the piece was removed and mounted in the backboard and secured with the tailstock.

The afternoon session (as I recall) was used to demonstrate the use of various scrapers to make a natural edge picture frame and a natural edge bowl.

Jerry uses air-powered sanders to sand his pieces and he does not typically sand past 240 grit paper.

Jerry was asked about using lacquer and the effects of water staining. He indicated that yes, water can stain lacquer but it's easy to fix. Just wipe with mineral spirits and spray again with lacquer. Spray-on Deft lacquer (satin finish) is his preferred finish because there is such a short drying time between coats (approx. 30 min). This allows him to sand and completely finish a piece in several hours as opposed to several days with other finishing products.

In his demo, Jerry showed us that woodturning doesn't have to be an expensive hobby. With his

backboard/tailstock method of turning, you can turn stock very

safely without the use of expensive chucks or expensive tools.



Southern Piedmont Woodturners presents "A Day At The Lathe"

The Southern Piedmont Woodturners presents "A Day At The Lathe", a day of woodturning featuring Nick Cook - The Basics, Bobby Clemmons - Bowls, and Chris Ramsey - Hats. April 1, at the Historic Courthouse, 65 Union Street, Concord, NC 9:00 AM until 6:00 PM.

Admission is \$35 at the door or \$30 pre-registration.

The newly renovated Historic Courthouse features a 250 seat theatre with stadium seating. This will be a very comfortable and enjoyable day. For more information

or to pre-register contact Barry Russell, 6433 Charlie Walker Rd., Kannapolis, NC 28081.

Phone 704-933-9092.

E-mail brussell18@carolina.rr.com.

Barry Russell, President
Southern Piedmont Woodturners



Jerry Ostrander



Mike Pollard



Clarence Cogdell



Edgar Ingram



Jim Falowski



Don Oetjen

The Beginner's Corner



Everyone says sanding is the worst part of a turner's job. I like to think of it as just a step in the process.....

In my October '05 article I told you all I was able to learn about sandpaper and this month I am going to try to tell you how to use it. Anyone can write an article about sanding so here is my version. What follows is a mixture of information from an article written by a turning pro, Russ Fairfield (used with approval) and some from my own experiences. If you want to read Russ' original version and other pretty interesting articles by him go to www.woodturner-russ.com. He has some very useful stuff on Finishing, the Bandsaw, Dust Collection and FAQs about woodturning. For more sanding information see the November and December 2002 journal articles edited by Ric Erkes.

Everyone says sanding is the worst part of a turner's job. I like to think of it as just a step in the process, kind of like ironing a shirt to take out the wrinkles after it's been washed. Yes, it takes time but you know it's worth it. I strongly recommend that you do some scraping or shear scraping before you begin to use sandpaper. See my journal article of January of 2005 for 2 inexpensive scrapers to use inside and outside a bowl.

My observation about sanding articles is that the writer generally tells you what to do but often omits saying how to do it. I plan to give you some "how to's" in this article. Russ has what he calls 5 rules of sanding that incorporate everything he knows about sanding.

Rule #1 Sandpaper is a cutting tool. Keep it sharp and keep it clean. Throw it away when it gets dull. Dull sandpaper generates heat, a no-no. Dull 120 grit

cannot be used as a substitute for 220 grit. When in doubt compare a fresh piece with the one you are using. The fingers are reliably sensitive. If you can detect a difference use a new disc. Clean the disc on a block of crepe rubber. Blocks are for sale for less than \$10 and will last practically forever. And here is Don's rule. Don't buy red colored sandpaper even if it's cheap from the bargain box. It isn't a bargain; it's too stiff. Stick with white or yellow color that has a j-flex backing. I've mentioned this before but I still see members rooting through the bargain box that has nothing in it but the stiff red paper.

Rule #2 Remove torn grain, tool marks with as coarse a grit as necessary to do the job. They don't give extra credit for starting with 180 grit. Use 80 grit or 60 grit. When I first started turning I thought the way to do this was to have the lathe spinning slowly and the velcro disc turning fast and just keep on sanding. I soon learned a better way is to stop the lathe and with your power drill sand out the problem areas feathering so you don't create a flat spot or a depression. I find it more efficient to use a 2" disc for this step. Before you move on blow off the dust. Dust can clog up small torn areas fooling you into thinking you're done. The problem will show up later and you'll have to go back and repeat some steps.

Rule #3 Sand through all the grits up to 320. Don't omit any of them. Now you can run the lathe slowly and sand with the higher grits. We just had a demonstrator who claimed he goes directly from 100 to 220. I think that is very poor advice. I've never heard any other turner recommend that so stick with the other pros and use all the grits.

Rule #4 Remove all the scratches and dust from each grit before moving on. So how do you know when the previous scratches are gone and replaced by ones made with the new

grit? Sand just some of the surface leaving a small portion untouched. Stop the lathe and compare the two sites. Now you know what the newly sanded area should look like. Orbital sanders are valuable if you have one. The scratches seem less noticeable with an orbital sander. Try using an orbital or vibrating palm sander on the outside of a bowl. It does a great job particularly on the end grain to take care of those cross grain scratches. If you get too aggressive on the inside of a bowl you might create circular rings in the bottom. That's another no-no. It's a dead give-away to poor work. You get rid of them by using the power sander with the lathe stopped sanding with the grain back and forth across the bottom.

Rule #5 Slow is good and slower is even better. Russ says he sands with a maximum lathe speed of 250 RPM and the power drill also at a slow speed. Try it you might like it. When you've completed power sanding with 320, as a final step, stop the lathe and hand sand all over with the grain and the paper cushioned with a piece of foam rubber.

Next month there will be a guest columnist doing a feature on the shop arrangement of one of our members. We will have future columns on other members. I'm fast running out of ideas for a column that is appropriate for this space and I may have to stop writing unless I get some suggestions that you would like me to cover.

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.

2006 Challenge Projects

- * 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

- * February 11 @ 1 pm - James Moore - Pen Turning
- * March 11 @ 10 am - Cindy Drozda
- * April 8 @ 1 pm - Jim Vogel - Treadle Lathe demo
- * May 13 - Picnic at Camp Grimes
- * June 10 @ 10 am - Joe Ruminski
- * July 8 @ 10 am - Mark St. Leger
- * August 12 @ 10 am - Alan Leland
- * September 9 @ 10 am - Mark Kauder
- * October 14 - TBD
- * November 11 - TBD
- * December 9 - Christmas Party



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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.
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- * 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.



Scott Caskey



Frank Bock



Harold Lineberger



Ron Mechling



David Cox



Wayne Veit



Stephen Richie



Bob Nicks



Russell Willis



Sharon Lochaby



John Melius



Barb Ward



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 11th at 1:00 pm

visit us on the web at www.ncwoodturners.com