



North Carolina WOODTURNER

Journal of the North Carolina Woodturners Association
A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners
www.ncwoodturners.com

July 2006

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*Cherry Burl
by Sam McDowell*

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The AAW is dedicated to the advancement of woodturning by providing education, information, organization, technical assistance, and publications relating to woodturning. The North Carolina Woodturners Association purpose is to promote an interest in wood turning for persons of all levels, and to encourage membership in, and give support to, the American Association of Woodturners.

"Put a mirror behind your lathe; notice how often you catch yourself smiling. If you're not having fun during the making, then you're too invested in the final result."

David Silberkleit,
Woodturning Magazine,
June 2006.

President's Message

by Sam McDowell

The first thing that needs to be said this month is a big congratulation to John Uteck. His efforts earned our newsletter a second place of all the AAW chapters. We all have come to accept John's outstanding work as the norm. It is great to see him receive the credit that he deserves. Good job John.

We need to elect a new board member at the July meeting, to keep this balanced and according to the by laws. John Melius has agreed to serve. I think John will be a good addition to the other dedicated members on the board. Thank you John.

As you know, Barb Ward will be

taking over the newsletter duties from John the first of the year. That leaves an opening for Programs Chair. We all come to the meetings to learn from the demonstrations given. Therefore, the programs schedule is the heart of our club. We all want to see a great demo, but how many of us are willing to find and book one. I know that it takes a commitment; the end result is worth it. It is a job that can be done on your schedule gradually through the year. If there is any one that has any talents in this area let any board member know. We can sure use the help.

Speaking of good programs. How about June's meeting. I don't know about you but, I have made 12 pocket

mirrors and 10 flower vases to sell. An excellent way to use those scrap pieces of wood I didn't know what to do with. Thanks Joe and Barb.

The Board has approved our involvement in the Klingspor Extravaganza in October. I think that this will be a combination mini symposium / monthly meeting / education time / display / sales event. We will be working with at least the Asheville club. Klingspor will bring in a couple of big names for demos. Make plans to be there and bring you best work for display. As usual we will need your help.

See you at the meeting. Sam

Program Notes - July 8th @ 10:00 am

by Barb Ward

Mark St. Leger is an Honorary Lifetime Member of the Blue Ridge Woodturners Club in Virginia. He has served as vice-president, president & activities coordinator along with hosting their club meetings at a local high school shop on a monthly basis. He is also a member of the American Association of Woodturners where he has served as a member of the board of directors. Several years ago the AAW produced a "Skill Building Projects" video featuring some of Mark's teaching techniques.



Mark has been an active demonstrator and workshop leader for turning clubs, along with demonstrating at many regional and national symposiums. He is currently on the faculty list of Arrowmont School of the Arts in Tennessee, and the John C. Campbell Folk School in North Carolina. Mark also finds satisfaction in teaching woodturning courses for a local college. His work has been shown at many venues and is in private collections.

Known for his sense of humor and ability to effectively teach a variety of age groups and skill levels, Mark's teaching techniques are easily followed and incorporate much skill building. Mark will be demonstrating a variety of techniques during the full day demonstration in July. He will start with a few skill building projects, and then move on to more advanced

woodturning techniques. If time allows, he hopes to cover several topics including the following:

- * Nest Egg (natural edge bowl/vessel)
- * Bias Bowl or Box
- * Surface treatments



images from www.markstleger.com

Membership & Library News

by Mary Bachand

Membership: Welcome back into the fold, Lawrence Kanipe of Lenoir, NC. Lawrence has been a member for many years who somehow got side-tracked this year.

Library: I haven't done this in a long time but, folks, you got to keep your rentals for two months and only paid rental for one month. So - I sort of expected to have a lot more returns than I got. Anyway, these members have overdues: Mike Kezik-2 books; J. T. Barker-3 books, and 4 DVDs but

I think that he was checking out a couple of them for malfunctions; Cathy Skipper-a DVD; Jim Moore-5 videos; Bryan Myers-4 videos; and Robert Erard-5 videos and 1 book. Please return either at the July meeting or mail them to me. My address is on the rental. Thank You.

The cabinet that we keep our books in sort of fell apart at our June meeting. The door wouldn't lock as a hinge was messed up and one of the rollers broke off. Two members

worked hard trying to get the door locked. I just have my fingers crossed that our books and DVDs are safe. The cabinet was our oldest one.

Although I only have half the money, I am ordering the Jimmy Clewes box set "Turn It On". Please take advantage of our library. I have a request that would cost a lot of money to fill and I don't have the money at this time.

From the AAW - 2006 Chapter Contests



Best AAW Chapter Website Contest

Thanks to the 19 chapters that entered the AAW's third chapter website contest. The websites that were entered showed off some excellent webmaster skills and highlighted woodturning in a variety of creative ways.

Congratulations to the top three chapter webmasters. They will receive award plaques at the 2006 Louisville, Kentucky Symposium. The winners are:

First Place

Chapter: Woodturners of North Texas
Webmaster: Billy R. Boehme
Website: www.wntx.org

Second Place

Chapter: Alabama Woodturners Association
Webmaster: Harold Jones
Website: www.alabamawoodturners.com

Third Place

Chapter: Central Indiana Chapter of the AAW
Webmaster: James Purciful
Website: www.cicaaw.org

Visit the winning websites to get some great ideas for improving your chapter's website.

Best AAW Chapter Newsletter Contest

The time has arrived and the judging has been done. It is time to announce the winners of the AAW Chapter Newsletter contests.

The judge for the Chapter Newsletter contest was Philip Roybal, last year's winning editor from Silicon Valley Woodturners. This year we had 27 chapters enter, up from 18 the year before. Philip said that all of the entries were great but when he applied the strict guidelines for the contest, the following chapters were the winners.

First Place

Central Texas Woodturners' "The Chip Pile", edited by Charlie Kay.

Second Place

North Carolina Woodturners' "North Carolina Woodturner", edited by John Uteck.

Third Place

North Coast Woodturners' "North Coast Woodturners Newsletter", edited by Brian Becker.

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all that entered.

John Hill - AAW Chapters and Membership Chairman
Johnrhill@charter.net

Demonstrator Review - Joe Ruminski, June 10

by Ed Mackey

Joe Ruminski was our demonstrator today. Joe is a professional turner and a member of the Carolina Mountain Woodturners. He has a website that is worthwhile visiting at:

<http://www.greenriverwoodworking.com>



Joe began by telling us a little about himself and what he hoped to accomplish at today's meeting. He indicated that this was not a demonstration on sanding or finishing, or how to make a certain object, like natural edge bowls. Instead, he hoped to teach his turning techniques and had several small projects lined up to demonstrate these. Before the meeting began, Joe had placed handouts on each chair which covered all the projects. Joe talked about the importance of having sharp tools and since this demo did not address sharpening, Joe had an assistant with him that did all the sharpening allowing Joe to focus on turning. He did however mention a tip that might be worth noting with respect to the Vari Grind Wolverine jig. There is a tendency to make a mark in the long sliding bar used to steady the Vari Grind jig that identifies where the bar should be set. Instead of doing this, he suggested making a small template used to set the distance from the grinding wheel to where the jig rests in the bar (one for bowl gouges and one for spindle

gouges). This is due to the fact that the wheel gets smaller as its used and dressed and therefore affects the resulting grind. Using the template to set the distance keeps that part of the equation constant. Joe uses only one setting on his Vari Grind jig for both bowl and spindle gouges. The distance template varies for each, giving 45 degrees for bowl gouges and 60 degrees for spindle gouges.

The first project was a bottle stopper. A square/rectangular blank pre drilled with a 3/8 hole was used. A Jacobs chuck placed in the headstock was used to hold a bolt that had its threads filed down. The blank fit snugly over the bolt and the tail stock moved up for safety. The blank was turned to a cylinder with a roughing gouge and then shaped using a spindle gouge and finally parted off with a parting tool. Careful attention was paid to making light cuts. He also mentioned that small pieces require high rpms to get clean cuts and minimize tearout.

The next project was a ball and cup toy. A rectangular blank was mounted between centers. One end of the blank had been pre drilled with a 1 inch Forstner bit which would serve as the cup. Also worth mentioning is that the Forstner bit was placed in a Jacobs chuck and was used as the drive spur. A roughing gouge was then used to turn the blank to a cylinder. Then Joe used a spindle gouge to turn the ball and handle portion. The ball portion was then parted off which completed this project.

The next project was a spoon. I wondered how this was going to get accomplished. Joe's use of the jam chuck was the answer. He started by mounting a rectangular blank between centers and turned to a

cylinder with a roughing gouge. Then using a spindle gouge turned a ball on one end and a handle on the remaining portion of the cylinder. Then he introduced the jam chuck that looked like a bowl blank with a groove cut out along the diameter that was about 3/4 inch wide and about an inch deep. The jam chuck was mounted in a chuck and the center turned to accommodate the ball portion of the spoon. This had to be a snug fit. The ball portion of the spoon was then placed in the chuck and the handle portion in the groove. It stuck out a few inches so "caution" if you use this technique. Joe tapped the ball portion with a mallet to force a snug "safe" fit. Then he turned a "bowl" in the ball portion to form the scoop portion of the spoon. He used a scraper to do this since the inward pressure of the scraper is less likely to move the piece. A gouge tends to push horizontally.

The next project was a ladle. This was very similar to the spoon except that it introduced Multi-center turning. Try to picture the end of the cylinder that's say 2 inches in diameter. One inch in is the center point. If you mark a point 3/8th in from each end along the diameter, you wind up with 3 center points: the middle and each 3/8th point. Do this on both ends assuring that the same azimuth of the diameter is used. Joe mounted the piece on one pair of the 3/8th centers and turned a long shallow cove the length of the handle. Very light cuts are required and as high as comfortable rpms. He did this on both sides and then parted the piece off.

In the handouts, Joe provided a printed Index wheel. For those who do not have an index feature on their lathe, this might be the answer. The handout can be pasted or glued to the

Demonstrator Review (continued)

by Ed Mackey

outboard hand wheel. It must be mounted dead center to the wheel. Then a pointer can be mounted to line up with a line on the wheel. This could be a paper clip or piece of wire. When the pointer lines up with a point on the wheel, use a pencil and mark the piece. Continue turning the wheel and marking the piece at the desired intervals.

The next project was a spatula. Joe had a flat piece of maple (about 3/8th's thick, by 2.5" x 16"). One end (about 6") which was to be the handle, was sandwiched between 2 pieces of cherry using a polyurethane glue. This was mounted between centers and the handle end was turned to a cylinder with some decorative details added. Joe showed us a finished version of this that he had brought with him. He continues to work on spatulas off the lathe and tapers the spatula end down from 3/8Th's' to a usable size.

One of the pieces Joe brought with him was on display in the gallery. It was a very thin long (about 1/4 inch by 30+ inches) piece that one might conclude was several glue ups of finials. It was however, one long piece and Joe demonstrated how he did this. He pointed out that while its artistic value might be questionable, his intent was to demonstrate a technique on how one could turn a long thin piece. He slid a dowel through the headstock mounted with a chuck, and turned a small portion into a finial. Then slid out some more dowel and turned the next finial. Repeat this as many times as you want. He had a device mounted on the ways that served as a steady rest. This consisted of a pipe at spindle height that would accept the turned piece as it was slid out. This would prevent it from wiping around. The pipe appeared to be about 3/4 inch in

diameter and about 3 feet long. He indicated that the limiting factor is the distance you have at your location. Also, the same issues exist at the headstock side and indicated you need the same "steadying" support at that side as well.

The pocket mirror was the next project. The final product is a 2.5 inch beveled mirror inlaid in a wooden piece. He started with a blank mounted between centers. He then turned a tenon and shaped the back of the mirror using several light shear scraping cuts. Then he reverse mounted the piece and turned a recess that would accept the mirror and also allow an expansion chuck to hold the piece in order to complete the back of the mirror. After the back was turned, the mirror can be glued in. Joe uses a rubber silicone glue for this...he also mentioned that "shoe goo" works as well. For finishing these he uses lacquer or polyurethane.

The next project was a simple platter. Joe mounted a blank between centers and turned a recess and shaped the bottom. He used several light shear cuts to form the bottom. Then using a chuck, he reversed the platter and turned the inside.

The next project was a closed form. He used a freshly cut, very wet piece of Ash for this. He indicated that he never sands Ash. Instead he places it in a sand blaster to get a clean surface. He started by placing the blank between centers and turning a tenon and shaping the bottom with several light shear cuts. Then he mounted a chuck and mounted the tenon side of the blank in the chuck. He then shaped the top of the closed form and using a combination of a bowl gouge and a hollowing tool, completed the inside. The hollowing tool was a

modified version of the Stewart Hollowing system. It had a hook neck that allowed a getting into the underside of the rim of the form and scraping. After scraping a small portion, the bowl gouge is used to start where the scraper left off. He pointed out that one has to develop a feel for this since you are turning blind and really can't see where the tool meets the wood.

The next project was what Joe called the impossible hollow form. Joe started with an already turned cylinder and turned a tenon on each end. He then shaped the outside of the form and using a parting tool parted to separate the top and bottom. A pencil mark was used prior to this to indicate where they would need to be matched up later. He then mounted the top in the chuck and hollowed out the inside. He then did the same to the bottom and glued them together assuring that the pencil marks lined up. To hide any remnants of the glue joint, cut a groove in the glue joint and another on each side. he then used a wire to burnish each groove for a decorative effect.

The final project for the day was a Christmas ornament. Joe used an already turned blank for this that had been pre drilled with 1 inch holes at what was to be the top of the ornament. He noted that the holes were each drilled half way in with a Forstner bit. He then completed the bottom portion by turning a long tapered finial.

This completed the demo for today. I've never been to one of our meetings where I went home without learning anything and today was certainly no exception.

The Beginner's Corner



Don't move on to a finer grit until all uneven surfaces are smooth and all the tear out is gone.

After writing the sanding article that appeared in the February 2006 journal I realized there were a number areas that I meant to cover but didn't. So this may be considered part 2 of my version on how to do an effective job of sanding wood turnings. There may be some repetition of part 1 but this will serve to emphasize important steps.

I've found a close quarter drill to be easiest to use for power sanding. Both Sioux and Milwaukee make one. I have one of each and there is only one difference that I can see. My Sioux has an awkward reversing switch but the newest model has adopted the Milwaukee style. You can buy the Milwaukee drill on the internet for about \$60-\$70 versus \$150 or more in the catalogues. Be careful not to buy a cheap copy. They are offered for \$20-\$25 but they are definitely inferior. They have copied the Milwaukee design right down to the red paint but inside they don't measure up.

First let me repeat an important step you should take before beginning to sand. Use a scraper to smooth the surface of any of the ridges left by the tool. You might want to grind a negative rake on your scraper as Cindy Drozda talked about at our March meeting and as Stuart Batty wrote about in the Spring 2006 issue of the American Woodturner

magazine. I haven't tried it yet but I intend to one day soon.

Typically one should start power sanding with a course grit like 60, 80 or 100 with the lathe running slowly. Do I need to say the rotation of the paper should be opposite to that of the lathe? Which grit will depend on how well you did the tool work and on the wood itself. Hard woods like pecan will usually require a courser grit than a softer wood like maple. This method will reveal the places that will require more careful attention. Stop frequently to examine the work. Be sure to blow off all dust that might be hiding in and obscuring tear outs.

Now stop the lathe and power sand these problem areas. Don't move on to a finer grit until all uneven surfaces are smooth and all the tear out is gone. I find it easiest to do this step with a 2" mandrel. It's easy to direct the effort exactly where you want it. Cross grain scratches are the most difficult to deal with so as a final step use the edge of the pad to sand with the grain. I've even been known to hand sand with the grain after power sanding especially with the finer grits. Always use a foam pad when hand sanding. This will spread out the finger pressure and give a better result.

If you are having difficulty with a particular area you might spritz the work with water. It will raise the grain and might make it possible to get a better finish with a scraper.

Another suggestion is to reverse the rotation of the lathe and power sand that way. Be sure to reverse the rotation of the drill. After dealing with all the problem areas with the lathe stopped once again run it slowly and sand again with the same grit size. Now you are ready to move on to successive grits. Spritzing might also cause a little movement of the wood so if you are planning on doing any texturing or incising lines do it before spritzing.

In a previous article on sources for tools and supplies I said I preferred firm sanding mandrels. I've since decided that firm is good for grits up to 180 but the softer ones give an improved result in grits 220 and above. When you get to 220 you are only working to remove scratches and the softer pads put almost the whole surface on the work. They conform nicely to convex and concave surfaces. The firm pads put only about a 1/4 inch of the pad on the work and care is needed to assure that you don't put any grooves or flat spots onto the work. The soft pads can be purchased at Klingspor.

Next month David Kaylor will take us to the shop of another of our members.

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.

Next Meeting: July 8th at 10:00 am

Demonstrator: Mark St. Leger

Demonstration: Skill building and advanced woodturning techniques

**KLINGSPOR'S
WOODWORKING SHOP**
"Quality Tools and Supplies for the Woodworker"

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

Need Demonstrators for Camp Grimes

Our club will be doing woodturning demonstrations for Scouts at Camp Grimes again this summer. These will be on Tuesday night about 7:00 pm and last about an hour. They are a very basic introduction to

woodturning for Scouts. Dates June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 18, 25.

If you could help please contact Jim Miles - jim9miles@aol.com or 704-661-0600.

NCW Demonstration Calendar

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| * <u>July 8 @ 10 am</u> - Mark St. Leger | * <u>October 14</u> - TBD |
| * <u>August 12 @ 10 am</u> - Alan Leland | * <u>November 11</u> - Frank Penta |
| * <u>September 9 @ 10 am</u> - Mark Kauder | * <u>December 9</u> - Christmas Party |

2006 Challenge Projects

- | | |
|---|---|
| * <u>July</u> - hollowing. | * <u>October</u> - goblet. |
| * <u>August</u> - lidded vessels. | * <u>November</u> - Multi-center or offset turning. |
| * <u>September</u> - toothpick holder or pen/pencil holder. | * <u>December</u> - finials and icicles. |



NORTH CAROLINA WOODTURNER
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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 (Fairview, NC) 828-296-0418.
- * Edgar Ingram (Statesville, NC) 704-876-4576.
- * David Kaylor (Davidson, NC) 704-892-8554.
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- * 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.



Jerry Ostrander - Koraro



Dean Amos - Fiddleback Bigleaf Maple



Harold Lineberger - Box Elder



Jim Miles - Maple



Gary Doby - Walnut



Hillary Henson - Cedar, Canary, Olive



Scott Caskey - Maple



Edgar Ingram - Canary



David Kaylor - Cherry Burl



John French



Sharon Lochaby - Pine



Jim Livingston - Locust Burl



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: July 8th at 10:00 am

visit us on the web at www.ncwoodturners.com