



## North Carolina WOODTURNER

Journal of the North Carolina Woodturners Association  
 A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners  
[www.ncwoodturners.com](http://www.ncwoodturners.com)

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*Tea Cup and Saucer - Maple*

*by Michael McNeilly*

**Next Meeting:**  
**August 12th at 10:00 am**

Demonstrator: Alan Leland

Demonstration: "turning the ultimate lazy susan" and "turning a mushroom"



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.

## President's Message

by Sam McDowell

The time has come to discuss the future of the NC woodturning symposium. As an outgrowth of our 2005 symposium, a Symposium Organizing Committee was formed. Board member Bill Williams has represented our club as they worked hard on the framework for a new way of doing things. Thank you Bill.

The history of our symposium was that the NCW, Raleigh and Greensboro clubs would work together to put on the event in Statesville. The clubs would share the work and share any funds generated. Our club depended on our share of the money to be a large portion of our budget. The money allowed us to bring in top quality demonstrators and have a newsletter mailed to each

member each month. The reality of the last three events is that attendance was going down steadily (approx. 200+/ 2001, 175/2003, 165/2005). In other words it was dieing in its present form.

The Organizing Committee has come up with a plan that will create a whole new approach. There will be an independent corporation for the purpose of conducting the North Carolina Woodturning Symposiums in the future beginning in the fall of 2007. Each of the 11 clubs in NC will be invited to participate by appointing a member to the Board of Directors. The participating clubs will contribute funds for the initial capitalization of the corporation proportional to the size of the club. Any profits would be

given back to the clubs. Our initial contribution would be about \$1500. The committee has set a date of October 5, 6, 7 2007. The location will be the Greensboro Coliseum Meeting Room facilities. This was chosen for its central location.

In my opinion this is something that needs to be done in order continue the healthy growth of the Symposium. The organizing committee has treated this like a business, as it should be. There are a lot of details that need to worked out. We need decide now if we are going to be part of this. I think we should support the effort.

We will discuss this at August meeting.

Sam

## Membership & Library News

by Mary Bachand

**Membership:** Please welcome Scott Regenbogen of Hickory to our chapter. Until I received Scott's application, I was wondering (well, just for a little while) how I would fill this space for our journal. Never fear, I have never been at a loss for words for very long. So-what follows next is what I planned to write and will do anyway.

Did you know that the editor of our award-winning journal, John Uteck, is also the one who makes our name tags? I'm sure you will "treasure" that bit of information. But-here is

something better! John is also a referee. When Ric Erkes was the program chairman, Ric and I monthly had a contest to see which one of us could get our "copy" in to John first. There were no prizes except the satisfaction of hearing from John that "you were first this time". It was great fun-for some reason.

**Library:** When I walked into our July meeting, I saw " a man down" and I mean on the floor. Bless Everett Tucker's heart because he managed to get the wheel, that had broken off our book cabinet, back on and attached.

Thank you so much, Everett. I was afraid that we would no longer be able to use the cabinet.

My second "happy" of the day was when I looked up and saw Jack Freeman standing in back of the meeting crowd. Jack has had a rough few months health-wise and we were all happy to see him. Jack has been the one who cataloged our very large library. Now he is willing to get caught up with our new additions for this year.

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Demonstrator: Alan Leland

Demonstration: "turning the ultimate lazy susan" and "turning a mushroom"



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

## Program Notes - Alan Leland - August 12th @ 10:00 am

by Barb Ward



Alan Leland will be demonstrating his skills during our all-day meeting in August. Alan serves as vice president of the Woodturners Guild of North Carolina. He has been a demonstrator at numerous state and national meetings, including The American Association of Woodturners Annual Symposium. He has also published an article in American Woodturner Magazine. A true woodturning aficionado, Alan has studied with internationally known turners such as Allan Batty, Bill Jones, Stuart Batty, George Hatfield, Soren Berger, Trent Bosch, Myron Curtis, Roger Jacobs, Stoney Lamar, Mike Mahoney, and Gary Sanders.



Woodworking Shop, Woodcraft and at Chimney Stack Craft School in Chapel Hill, NC.

Owner of Leland Studios, Alan likes working with clients to develop custom designs especially suited to their needs. He also enjoys collecting and working with many different woods and says that he could spend a life time doing woodturning and still not explore all of the ideas that fill his creative vision. Alan is best known for his teaching of turning skills, techniques and his endless patience and encouragement. He is also known for his well proportioned turnings that emphasize the delicate side of spindle turning. His ornaments and stools attract a great deal of attention and compliments. His emphasis on letting the wood stand out can be seen in the way he blends the grain of the boards he uses in his faceplate turnings.

Alan's work can be seen in his studio or at the North Carolina History Museum Gallery, the North Carolina

Craft Gallery and in East Wake Hardwoods Gallery. Alan has shown his work in the NC State University Craft Centers Instructors Show, the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Silent Auction and the Guild show at the NC State University Craft Center Gallery. His work has also been shown at the North Carolina Natural Science Museum Gallery Woodturning show in Raleigh, NC. He has also displayed an assortment of his work at the John C. Campbell Folk School Gallery and in their Annual fund raising auction.

Alan will be sharing many of his tips, techniques, and secrets with us on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Two of his favorites are "turning the ultimate lazy susan" and "turning a mushroom".



### NCW Demonstration Calendar

- \* August 12 @ 10 am - Alan Leland
- \* September 9 @ 10 am - Mark Kauder
- \* October - Klingspor's Extravaganza
- \* November 11 - Frank Penta
- \* December 9 - Christmas Party

### 2006 Challenge Projects

- \* August - lidded vessels.
- \* September - toothpick holder or pen/pencil holder.
- \* October - goblet.
- \* November - Multi-center or offset turning.
- \* December - finials and icicles.

# Demonstrator Review - Mark St. Leger, July 8, 2006

by Ed Mackey

Mark St. Leger was our demonstrator today. I remember Mark's last visit here (2 years ago) as an excellent learning experience as well as quite entertaining and today proved to be the same.

Mark began by explaining that he intended to teach skill building techniques and would do so by turning an egg, a sphere and a tooth pick. Skill building projects are useful for developing good tool control. After the skill building projects, there would be a few real projects based on time available.

Mark's first project was turning an egg. He mounted a blank (about 3"x4") which was already turned to a cylinder. He used a Oneway safety drive spur in the headstock in order to avoid tearing the end in the event of a catch. Mark used only a skew on this so this became a worthwhile lesson on how to use the skew as well as turn an egg. He started using peeling cuts, and turned a 5/8" tenon (on the headstock end) with a light taper that would fit snugly into the headstock spindle. Then he removed the safety drive spur and mounted the blank in the head stock spindle and gave it a few taps with a mallet to firmly seat it. The tail stock was then brought up (for safety) with the intent on removing it later.

Then using several light planing cuts with the skew, he formed the egg with the thin side on the tail stock side. While doing these planing cuts, Mark emphasized that you should ride the bevel of the skew and at the end of the cut, try to have the center of the skew even with the center of the spindle axis and in a vertical position.

I'm probably not describing this very well, however it's a key point in using

the skew, so I'd highly recommend signing out this tape and seeing what I'm finding difficult to explain. Mark continued and parted off the material at the tail stock, again by using the skew. He then removed the tail stock and did a few finishing cuts on the thin side. This was followed by sanding starting at 220, then 320,400 and finally 600, then burnishing with shavings. I found Mark's sanding process interesting in the way he goes about it. He had small swatches of sandpaper already prepared in a magnetized clip. When ready to sand, he unclipped the sandpaper which was in ascending order by grit, and just sanded with each grit, being careful to place each piece back in its proper order and back in the clip when finished. If you watch this tape, you will notice how disciplined he is, as I watched him do this while talking and seemingly not even looking at what he was doing. This guy is disciplined..!

After the sanding was finished, using the skew, Mark parted the egg off of the head stock side. He noted that the remaining tenon in the spindle, could be used again as a glue block.

The next project was a 2 inch sphere. This requires turning on 3 axis points. Mark mounted a previously turned cylinder (about 3"x3") between centers. Using a roughing gouge, he turned it down to a 2 inch diameter cylinder. Then using a pencil, he marked the center of the spindle and then made a pencil mark 1 inch to each side of the center mark.

This left a small portion on each end. Using a parting tool, he turned away material starting at the side pencil marks and formed a 5/8 inch tenon on each end. At this point, using a spindle gouge formed the sphere.

Cuts were made from the penciled center point towards each end. Care should be taken to not destroy the center pencil mark since it will be used when the sphere is removed and mounted again in cup chucks.

Mark had a cup chuck jig that had the inside form of a 2 inch sphere, that he used to gage the roundness of the outer surface of the sphere. He would place the jig on the sphere and measure the fit. The piece was then mounted between centers using cup chucks previously turned for a 2 inch sphere. Each end was lined up with the center pencil line right in the center of the cup chuck. A snug (not too tight) fit is required. Now the tenons were turned away using very light cuts. As material was removed, Mark moved the tool rest closer as the material was removed being careful to take light cuts.

Note that the original center pencil mark should still be there. Now a pencil mark is drawn in the center of the sphere. The point at which it intersects the other pencil line is the 3rd axis point. Mark loosened the tail stock a bit and spun the sphere to line up centered in the new axis points. At this point, it only took a few finishing cuts with the spindle gouge to complete the sphere.

After completing the turning on the 3rd axis, Mark sanded the sphere at each axis point. The final test of how well the sphere was turned, is to role it and verify that it roles in a straight line. Well, just so everyone could see, Mark rolled the sphere along the ways of the lathe ..and as you might guess, it passed the test.

The final skill building project was a tooth pick. Mark started by using a blank about 9/16" by 3 inches. Using

## Demonstrator Review (continued)

by Ed Mackey

a knife, he cut off the corners and tapped the blank into the headstock spindle. The using a skew, turned the blank to a cylinder using peeling cuts. Then using planing cuts, carefully turned the narrowest part of the tooth pick. Very light cuts were done while supporting the tooth pick with his left hand. Then using the skew, a few details were put at the top of the tooth pick. After very light sanding, it was parted off with the skew.



The next project was what Mark described as a natural edge nest egg. He showed us a sample that he brought with him. It looked like half of cracked egg with a few small loose eggs inside. He began this by mounting (between centers) a piece of maple burl that had been cut to a rectangle about 2.5 x 4 inches. Using a 3/8 bowl gouge, he turned the blank to a cylinder and then turned a tenon using a parting tool.

He mounted the piece in a chuck and then hollowed out the center using the 3/8 gouge and switching to a 1/4 gouge to complete the hollowing. The bark was cut off to give it the cracked egg look. After hollowing, a spindle gouge was used to shape the outside. Then sanding and finally parted off.

Now using a small blank, as he did for the tooth pick, the blank was tapped into the head stock spindle. Then using the skew, he turned 3 small eggs.

The next and final project was what Mark called a Bias Rocker Box. Mark started with a 3 inch cube that had 2 opposing corners flattened to form a small triangle. The size of the cube is not important, but all sides must be equal. After finding the center of the 2 small triangles, the blank was mounted between centers. A 1/2 inch

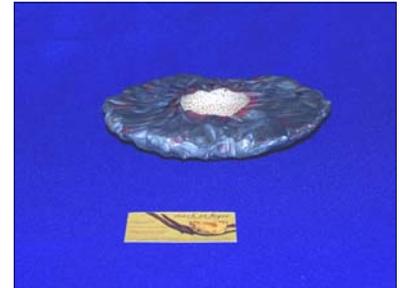
spindle gouge was used to turn what would be the top of the box. These cuts formed a concave-ish triangle at the tail stock side. Then Mark turned the bottom of the box and a tenon. After parting off, he remounted the box in a chuck and hollowed out the bowl portion leaving about a 3/4" wide opening. Then he turned a jam chuck with a 3/4" tenon that would accommodate the box. The box was then mounted on the jam chuck and using a 3/8 spindle gouge, finished the bottom.

A cocobolo lid was then turned to fit in the 3/4" opening. The finial for the lid was done using a home made eccentric chuck that had 2 tenons 3/16" apart on one side, with a 1/2" recess on the other side. A box wood blank was mounted and a 1/2" tenon turned and then mounted in the eccentric chuck using the off center tenon. The top portion of the finial was turned, then the chuck was positioned using the center tenon, and the bottom portion of the finial was turned. The finial was then parted off and using super glue, attached to the cocobolo lid.

Mark then used a wood burner to add some decorative effects to the top of the box (and hide a catch).

The topics covered at today's demonstration were extremely useful and Mark did a great job. However these topics were a bit difficult to

describe in this review, so I would highly recommend checking this video out especially if you are interested in using the skew or doing offset turning.



## The Beginner's Corner



We are again pleased to have an article from David Kaylor describing his visit to the shop of one of our members. I'm sure you will find it interesting. If your shop is unusual and can offer others ideas on setup of equipment, dust collection or unique tool storage we want to profile your shop in a future journal article. Please e-mail me so we can schedule a time to visit.

Forget constant updating your shop with expensive equipment. Forget all the rules about how to fine-tune your equipment – such as having a smooth, level tool rest parallel to the ways. Just be imaginative, do it your way, and have fun turning an ugly piece of wood into an object of beauty and/or utility. That sort of sums up Jim Miles' philosophy of wood turning.

I visited Jim's shop on a hot June evening, entering through an open garage door along with several mosquitoes that gave me my season's first bites. Jim was working on a piece of very punky spalted maple,



Forget constant updating your shop with expensive equipment.

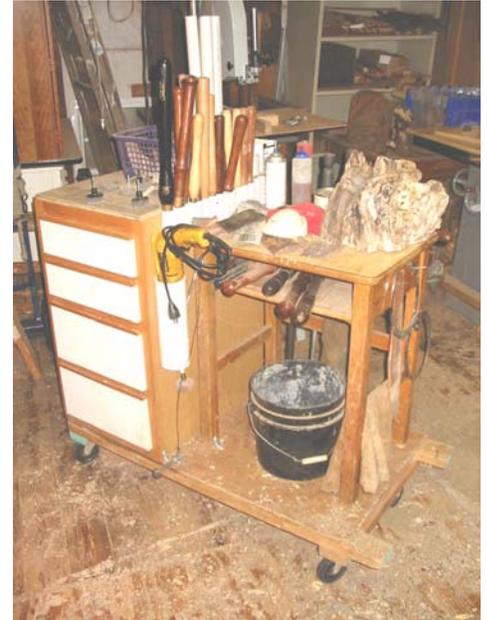
intending to make a hollow vessel with a stave bottom and top. He was working at one of his two lathes, both products of his own creative talents. This one was made from the headstock of a World War II machine lathe. The tailstock was from – well, there *was* no tailstock. Jim welded the base and ways, using angle iron. Jim uses a faceplate to hold the piece, and he doesn't own a chuck.

Jim's unconventional approach to turning no doubt owes something to the fact that he remembers his grandfather's turning, mainly in the production of furniture. In fact, he has his grandfather's lathe, though it is up on a shelf out of sight, waiting for the spirit to move him to renew it. He remembers when his father brought the lathe to his home, and gave him his first instruction in turning. Jim returned to turning several years ago, working on his own without further instruction and without significant contact with other turners until he joined NCW a few years ago. He greatly values the time he continues to spend in contact with NCW members.

Jim's other lathe is also a homemade spindle lathe – with a tailstock! – which he uses mostly for small items such as bottle stoppers.

My wife wishes my shop were outside, like Jim's. Too much

noise, too much dust filtering through the house from the basement, she says. Jim takes care of dust with a couple of window exhaust fans, which can make for cool turning in the winter. He has a propane heater, but has to be careful not to fill the air



with sanding dust when it is on. Shavings are taken care of with a leaf blower.

For holding his turning tools, sanding equipment, containers of sanding dust of various hues, Jim has constructed a caddy made of a cabinet from the Habitat for Humanity store. It is mounted on a dolly, along with a child's desk and PVC tubes to hold his chisels.

For sanding, Jim usually holds the sandpaper by hand for the outside of vessels, and uses a drill with sanding pads or flap wheels with a drill bit extender for the inside. As the picture below shows, he puts PVC pipe around the extender for a hand hold, an idea I had not seen before and intend to copy.

## The Beginner's Corner (continued)

He also uses an old vacuum cleaner from the Goodwill store, which he has hung on the wall near the lathe, to remove shavings while hollowing vases.

Jim teaches at the Icehouse Center in Davidson, where he encourages students to make dust and enjoy

themselves; to try new things; to be unafraid to experiment; to be creative, making for themselves whatever they need to do the job; to improvise rather than getting into collecting expensive tools.

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Jim's shop, and I think you would too.



*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).*



### 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.
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- \* 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](http://www.arrowmont.org))

**Ice House Center**  
Davidson, NC  
(704) 892-7323  
([www.icehousecenter.org](http://www.icehousecenter.org))

**John C. Campbell Folk School**  
Brasstown, NC  
1-800-FOLK SCH  
([www.folkschool.com](http://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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Gil Millsaps



Greg Crowder



Jerry Ostrander



Jim Miles



Max Schoner



Sam McDowell



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: August 12th at 10:00 am**

visit us on the web at [www.ncwoodturners.com](http://www.ncwoodturners.com)