



## 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)

November 2007  
 Volume 17, No. 11

### Inside this issue:

President's Message	2
Membership & Library News	2
Mary's Fruit Cakes!	2
Program Notes	3
My Club	3
Demonstrator Review	4-5
Extravaganza Report	5
A Visit To Ireland!	6
Challenge Marathon	7-8
Beginners Corner	9
2008 Membership	9
NCW Demonstration Calendar	10
Board of Directors & Mentors List	10
Gallery Photos	11-12



Gary Ritchie—Maple & Walnut



Bill Piastuch—Norfolk Island Pine



Clarence Cogdell—Ambrosia Maple



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.

## My Club

What kind of Club would my Club be, if all the members were just like ME?

... cont'd on page 3 →

## President's Message by Sam McDowell

What a month October was. First of all the Symposium was a great hit. I personally saw five different demonstrators. Attendance was above expectations. We will know the final results by our November meeting. I want to thank Bill Williams for all his work as a director. We can look forward to the next one.

The October meeting was well attended in spite of the demonstrator. We did some hands on and had the opportunity to get some Norfolk Island pine and Rosewood.

Klingspor's Extravaganza was also well attended. The Asheville club brought their 11 lathe learning center. Thanks to all that helped with the learning sessions. There were six classes for anybody who wanted to try their hand which netted 60 "new" woodturners. The Jet and Rikon dealers both sold out of small lathes and we may see some new faces at our meetings. Special thanks to Scott Caskey for handling the audio visual during the featured demonstrators. Scott was there all day both days, thanx. Again Coleman and his boys showed their support by moving all of our equipment both ways.

Next year we need to organize our booth better. We could have an on going lathe turning and more display pieces. Scott suggested that we incorporate our booth with the main demonstration booth. I grant you that we had a lot going on this year. Next year we can focus more on the Extravaganza.

I look forward to seeing y'all at the November meeting. Remember to put our Christmas Party on your calendar.

Sam

## Membership & Library News by Mary Bachand

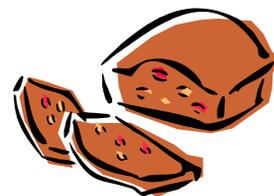
**Membership:** It's "that time of the year" and your North Carolina Woodturners 2008 dues can be paid to me at any time. Our mail carrier has delivered the first dues to our address. Reggie Sweat "won" first place by mailing his check to me. In second place with a tie were Charles Scheil and David Cox. Third place went to my Ken and fourth place to Gene Dampier. Each of the "winners" even returned their pink application form which I truly appreciate. I use those forms in making the new directory.

**Library:** Please return all rentals so that there will be a nice selection for my "Christmas Special". If you can't be at our meeting, you may mail your rentals to the address (mine) on the item. The "special" works this way. Any item checked out in November may be kept until our January meeting-all for a one month rental fee. I hope that I will have plenty of "customers" so that I can buy some new items over the holidays and have them available in January.

### *Holiday Fruit Cakes*

Mary is taking orders now for fruit cakes to be delivered at the December meeting. The fruit cakes are made with dates, cherries, candied pineapple, pecans, and "just a touch" of Myers dark rum. The small loaf size is \$11 and the large loaf size is \$27. Please let Mary know by note, e-mail, phone call, or in person if you want any so that she will have enough this year. Orders will be taken through the November meeting.

Mary Bachand  
296 Laurel Park Place  
Hendersonville, NC 28791  
(828) 696-8372  
Email: [kbachand@juno.com](mailto:kbachand@juno.com)



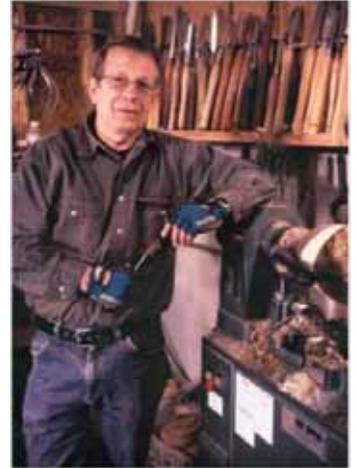
## Program Notes—Tom Zumbach

My woodworking hobby developed in the early 1980's, when I began making custom furniture pieces. Later on, my interest piqued when I saw a turned walnut goblet at a show. The elegance and beauty of that piece turned my hobby into an obsession. With no available woodturning classes, I began to experiment and teach myself. I soon found that my passion for the artistry of woodworking had become a lifelong career.

"Purity of form" is what I strive for when turning a piece. The lines, character and color variations of burls and spalted woods are my favorite to work with. My work encompasses everything from architectural woodturning and furniture parts to functional turned pieces, such as bowls, vases, lamps, and candlesticks, to abstract art.



I continue to attend symposiums and take classes, and have recently enrolled in a drawing class, learning skills applicable to my post-lathe work. I'm currently experimenting with acrylics, wood burning, gold copper leaf, texturing and carving. I also educate others by teaching classes in my studio.



Over the years, my work has been sold in galleries in Wisconsin, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. I have done juried shows all over the Midwest and Southeastern United States.

- Tom Zumbach



### My Club

**What kind of Club would my Club be, if all the members were just like ME?**

**You can thoughtfully ask yourself that question. If not, perhaps it's a swell suggestion.**

**You can sit by the fireside, smoking your pipe, find fault with the officers, censure and gripe.**

**Or you can be one who is always on call, both ready and willing to carry the ball.**

**To your fellow members you will soon be known, as a true loyal worker, or else a drone.**

**You can pass on new members or you can refuse to take part beyond just paying your dues.**

**You can stand on the sidelines, or jump in and play, attend every meeting, or just stay away.**

**You can visit a home when a member is ill, or leave the calling to Jo, Bob, or Bill.**

**Whatever your talents, some job you can do, so say to yourself as you pass in review,**

**What kind of club would my Club be, if all the members were just like ME?**

To turn or not to turn, Green Wood, that is the question...  
The answer – Why not?

There are benefits for turning green wood: it's easier, prettier, and most of all quicker. Plus the wood is generally easy to find; take a chain saw into the woods and cut your own turning stock.

Turning green wood is easier as the wood cuts more fluidly and can make very pretty long shavings. Green wood keeps its color, as dry wood can turn a grayish hue. Turning the wood while it's green saves time as it can take years to dry out a piece of wood. Wood dries at about one inch a year, so if you have a five inch round block of wood ---- that can take several years to completely dry.

There is also a shrinkage factor to consider; when wood dries you may lose up to 10% of the original size of the turning blank. When the wood shrinks, the wood is likely to crack. Cracking is generally around the pith of the log. You may combat some of the cracking issues by completely cutting out the pith of the log, then letting it dry.

Another method of fighting the cracking war is sealing the wood. With a cut log of wood, or any turning blank, sealing the ends of the wood may minimize cracking. This may not eliminate all the cracks that may happen, but it will help reduce the amount and/or size of cracks as sealing the wood slows the drying process. Sam suggests filling a squeeze bottle (sports bottle with a push/pull top) with wood sealer, squirt the sealer on the ends, and then brush it in to make an even coat on the ends of the wood. Using a squeeze bottle is a great idea as hefting a gallon jug of sealer to the wood pile with your disposable brush can get cumbersome, when the squeeze bottle is empty --- just re-fill it from the gallon jug.



Several of the members had ideas of how to dry the wood to get the least amount of cracks; Freeze it, Put the log/wood in a bucket of water, Enclose it in a plastic bag, Set it vertical out of the sun and rain with the bottom off the ground. There are many ways to dry wood to try to minimize the cracking, and no one way is fool proof.

Spalted wood can enhance the character of any piece of wood. Spalt is bacteria that has worked its way thru the wood causing black lines into the wood; in turn it will create unique variations. No two spalted pieces of wood are alike. How to spalt? Well that is easy, green wood just needs a wet, warm, shady place to rest. All turners have their own recipe for creating the spalted wood – the easiest... put your wood in a shady moist area of the yard and cover it with leaves. Eventually mold (spalt) will work its way thru the wood, after a month or several months it should be ready. Check the wood occasionally to make sure the wood is not past the turning point of ROT. Remember spalted wood is moldy wood, so always wear a mask when turning it.... Safety first.

I was very excited to see our President (Sam Sam the Turning Man) do the demo this month. Sam produces some beautiful pieces, his last turning was breath taking... an amazing hollowed out cherry burl vessel. The turning demonstration was a ½ maple log about 14 inches long that was just cut three days prior. Sam found the center on the flat side and with a forsner bit dug it out, this way the center spur will stay inside the log and not skate off the mark while turning. He then centered the log to center of the pith using the tool rest to get the pith even on both ends when turned.... (This is not a very good explanation and I apologize.) The tail stock then was tightened into the wood, rocking the wood back and forth to dig the center spur into the wood. Keep tightening the tail stock and with each tightening turn/rock the wood till the wood is tight between centers and no longer rocks.

Sam then slowly rounded the wood. Sam's preference of turning tools is the bowl gouge with long fingernail grind. Once the turning stock was almost round, Sam made adjustments to even up the bark on each end (again this is not a very good explanation and I do apologize) and again making sure the pith was still center. Why do this? Keeping the bark and pith symmetrical should keep the rings even on each side of the bowl; this little step keeps the turned piece more visually appealing.

I won't go into great detail how the bowl was turned, but will tell you Sam showed many different cuts; all with a bowl gouge (except he did use an end nose scraper to make the tenon). First he roughed the bowl to shape. Then when he was ready to clean up the cuts he used shear cut. A shear cut is when you hold the bowl gouge completely flat (almost at a 90degree angle to the wood) and slowly scraping the edge line of the bowl. These last cuts are delicate cuts and should be used as a final finishing cut. Sam suggests the very last cut should be with a freshly sharpened tool.

Hollowing out the inside of the bowl, go slow and do one inch at a time. Once you have the wall thickness where you want it do the final cut on that one inch, then proceed to the next inch and repeat. Remember as the wood dries the roundness may be compromised (warping), so you will not be able to go back. Keep removing one inch at a time till the entire bowl is hollowed.

When the bowl is completely hollowed it is time to clean up the bottom and remove the foot. Sam uses a large face plate with rubber round feet to hold it on the lathe. This will not secure it without the tail stock, thus jam chucking it. Slowly turn off the foot to make the bottom flat to sit on, but visually appealing also.

Once done.... Sand Sand Sand. With the bowl turned thin it will dry at a quicker pace. These can be the draw backs to turning green wood. Once you have a turned piece, you may have the cracking and/or warping issues. Some turners turn a piece thick (turning it to the overall shape with thicker walls than what the final piece calls for), letting it dry, and then coming back after a few months to re-turn it to the final thickness. A benefit for doing this is when the cracking and/or warping is done you can fill in the cracks and/or undo the warping. Some turners allow nature to do its drying and just re-turn the bottom for a flatter sit, using the warping in the final design of the turned piece.

## **KLINGSPOR's Woodworking Shop EXTRAVAGANZA** by **Evanna Brening**

Klingspor Extravaganza 2007 was a mega-polusa of tools. Tools, Tools, Tools, everywhere you look there was something for all woodworkers. There were sanders, grinders, jigs - oh my, from Delta, Powermatic, and Bosch to name a few. The carvers, turners, furniture makers were all covered under one roof. I have been to many tool shows and this was something to see... if you missed it this year, you missed out.

NC Woodturners as with many others had a demonstration area, I will say... and I don't mean to be biased, but we did have the best demos. We had Scott as the Camera-man extraordinaire, chairs for an audience, and speakers set up so the audience could hear what the demonstrator was saying. Every demonstration that I saw had an audience that was enraptured in the demonstrator's shavings and guidance. The other woodturning clubs did not have as nice of an arrangement -- **Great Job** to those who put in the hard work, set up the area, and fully participated in the action.

NC Woodturners also had 10 Jet Mini Lathes set up for hands on turning. Three times daily there was a chance to get a hands on lesson; the sign up sheet was full for each session. There were three stations, each with 3 - 4 lathes; the first station was turning honey dippers, the second station was turning spinning tops, and the last station was turning wine bottle stoppers. We often had on-lookers who did not get a chance to sign up but were soaking up the free lessons, and coming back for each session at a new station for the continued education.

I would not be surprised if we see many new members from that weekend alone. There was a cute little girl who was having the time of her life making a honey dipper. When she was done her proud father took her by the hand and walked her over to purchase her first lathe.

Many of the students were children, but we had some aged kids also; why I call the adults aged kids... the smiles on their faces when they crafted their first turned piece was a thing of beauty. The students may have learned a new craft, but they in turn taught us a very valuable lesson of pride.... remember your first turning - I do.

## A Visit To Irish Woodturners by David Kaylor

When my wife and I were planning our September trip to Ireland, I remembered meeting Irish woodturner Liam O'Neill some 12 years ago. I had just begun to turn and attended a weekend workshop at Highland Hardware in Atlanta, where Liam was the demonstrator. He worked primarily on turned-edge bowls, using his own special "Irish grind," a version of the fingernail grind for which he claimed original credit. I bought one of his signature gouges and began to learn its use.

As Dot and I considered our itinerary in Ireland, I found Liam's website and wondered if this was the same Liam, for the website had very large turned sculptures in an outdoor sculpture garden. So I insisted that our journey must take us to Spiddal, County Galway. Liam responded to my email, inviting us to come by for a visit.



Because of delays in itinerary and our non-functioning telephone card, we arrived at an unannounced hour on Saturday afternoon, but Liam graciously showed us around his gallery and studio. We sat in a turned chair and gazed at his sculptures, distributed around a lovely garden. We spent time in his beautiful gallery where he displays articles more resembling an instant gallery at AAW symposiums: natural edge bowls, hollow vessels, pyrographic and burl pieces.



His studio was piled high with large turning blanks (mostly maple and ash) and roughed-out bowls. Liam doesn't do ordinary bowls very much, but he says his pastor is working as an apprentice and does the bowls.

His inside lathe is a large Oneway, but his REAL lathe is outside. He made it for turning his sculptures. The headstock is a large block of concrete on which is mounted a 12 hp motor and a two-and-a-half inch spindle with a swing of about 6 feet. A gantry lifts the log into place. The log is held by a large faceplate, attached with 24 4-inch by .5-inch lag bolts

(no tailstock!). He has an attachment on the tool rest to hold a chain-saw, which he uses for roughing, both inside and outside. Only when the piece is sufficiently balanced does he turn it with the 12 horsepower motor, still using the chain saw for shaping it. Only for finish cuts and sanding does he use more ordinary kinds of tools.

His finished pieces are as unique as his equipment. He says he markets his work primarily through London and New York dealers, and of course he accepts commissions.

I learned a bit more about Liam's evolution as a turner by visiting Keith Mosse in Kilkenny. I learned about him by chance from a small brochure I picked up at a tourist information office. Mosse now does mostly custom furniture. Earlier he was primarily a turner and specialized in very large bowls. It turned out that the 30-inch fruitbowls that we had seen in the refectory of Trinity College in Dublin has been turned by Mosse. After a stint in Australia, Mosse returned to Ireland and began building furniture, using turning skills primarily in that pursuit. According to him, Liam took up where Mosse left off, making large bowls, then gravitating to more sculptural work.

Like Liam, Mosse graciously showed us around his shop and his gallery, which is attended by his wife. His gallery pieces show that he does indeed continue to do beautiful, artistic woodturning.

The countryside of Ireland is as green and beautiful as advertised, even more so when viewed against the intensely blue sky which surprisingly we had almost every day. But for me, visiting fellow woodturners was a special feature of our trip.



# October Challenge Project—Turn Something To Wear

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Dave Allen *												
J.T. Barker *												
Scott Caskey *												
Clarence Cogdell *												
Greg Crowder *												
Steve Hoyle *												
David Kaylor *												
Harold Lineberger *												
Sam McDowell *												
Michael McNeilly *												
John Melius *												
Jim Miles *												
Jerry Ostrander *												
Max Schronce *												

**CHALLENGE WINNER!**



Jerry Ostrander—Plum Necklace & Earrings



Scott Caskey—Maple



Harold Lineberger  
Bangle & Button



Steve Hoyle—Maple & Palm

## 2007 Challenge Projects

- \* **January**—“Remember when...”
- \* **February**—Turn a Crotch *or* Create a New Piece from an Old Piece
- \* **March** - Leave some bark on it.
- \* **April** - “Anything But Wood”
- \* **May** - Texture it!
- \* **June** - Turn something with a Stem.
- \* **July** - Light My Fire! Turn & Burn
- \* **August** - 2X4 Turning
- \* **September** - Turn a burl.
- \* **October** - Turn something to wear.
- \* **November** - Fancy Feet!  
The most impressive base wins!
- \* **December** - Spindles  
Thin, long, twisted, with a captive ring? You decide.



Sam McDowell—Mahogany



Dave Allen—Walnut

## The Fabulous Fourteen!!

Congratulations to the 14 who have come this far! The Awards Ceremony will be held at the January 2008 meeting.

### 2007 Challenge Project Marathon!

Those who successfully finish the marathon will be awarded a

**\$50 Gift Certificate from Klingspor & a Trophy!**

# October Challenge Project — Turn Something To Wear



Greg Crowder—Lacewood Hairsticks



J.T. Barker—Oak



Jim Miles—Trex Medallion

Sept Challenge



Greg Crowder—Buckeye Burl



Michael McNeilly

Sept Challenge



David Kaylor—Cherry Burl



John Melius—Buttons



Scott Caskey—Maple



Dave Allen—Maple Buttons



David Kaylor—Mesquite Earrings



Max Schronce



Just a few tips this month. This one involves using CA glue. I use it for glue blocks, attaching finials to lids and occasionally on cracks that I fill with sanding dust. But the cap can get clogged if the glue remains in it. So to avoid or minimize build up, I tap the container a few times as I finish using it. The idea is to send the remaining portion of glue back into the container. I also read somewhere that soaking the caps overnight in acetone removes the glue. So I tried this and it actually works. Speaking of acetone, I tend to get my talon chuck messy as I apply finish and have found that an overnight bath in acetone makes the chuck look new again. I spray it with a silicone spray to restore the lubrication.

This is another tip that lengthens the life of polyurethane finish before you apply it. I've been using an oil based gloss polyurethane finish that comes in quart containers. When I first open the can and apply it, the results are outstanding. I'm conscious about getting the lid back on as soon as possible to avoid evaporation. But about a week or so after I've opened it and the remaining level has gone down about only 2 inches, the results are...noticeably not as good and I wind up tossing the remaining portion. I've found that this is due to the fact that polyurethane uses oxygen in its evaporation process, and as it evaporates the original properties of the material changes. So to hinder the evaporation process, there is a product called Bloxygen that removes the oxygen from the container, thereby eliminating the evaporation. The oxygen is replaced by an inert gas so the polyurethane no longer is in contact with oxygen. Bloxygen comes in a pressurized can and you spray the contents into the container just before you seal it. Now I cannot attest to personal use of this but a fellow worker has been doing flat work all his life and he swears by its use. However, I just ordered a can from Rockler: <http://www.rockler.com/product.cfm?page=1396>. I also sent an email to [generalfinishes.com](http://generalfinishes.com) (sold at klingspor) and asked how to address this issue and their response was Bloxygen.

If any of you experienced non-beginners have any views on this (pro or con), I'd be very grateful for your comments. That's it for this months corner. As always, please email me with any comments / suggestions regarding the corner.

Ed Mackey ([woodenforms@yahoo.com](mailto:woodenforms@yahoo.com))

## 2008 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The 2008 NCW MembershipApplication/renewal form is included again in the mailing of this newsletter. Renewal dues are \$50.00 for year 2008. New membership dues are \$50.00; after April 1st, \$45.00; after July 1st, \$40.00; after October 1st, \$55.00, which includes the following year.

Mail completed form with check made payable to **NC Woodturners** to:

North Carolina Woodturners Association  
Mary Bachand, Secretary  
296 Laurel Park Place  
Hendersonville, NC 28791

Membership Application/renewal forms will also be available for pick up at the meetings or for download from our website at [www.ncwoodturners.com](http://www.ncwoodturners.com).

**FREE for all NCW Members—No need to register, just show up!**

## WESTERN PIEDMONT WOODCRAFTERS

presents

### Spindle Turning by Dave Hout

December 1st, 2007 — 10:00am—12:00 pm  
Klingspor's Woodworking Shop in Hickory

## 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.
- \* Glenn Mace (Mocksville, NC)  
336-751-4693.
- \* Sam McDowell (Statesville, NC)  
704-871-9801.
- \* 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.

## NCW Demonstration Calendar

- \* **Nov 10—10am—4pm—Tom Zumbach—Lidded Vessels**
- \* **December 8—Christmas Party—Mark Your Calendars!**



### NORTH CAROLINA WOODTURNER

Journal of the North Carolina Woodturners Association  
Published Monthly by the

NORTH CAROLINA WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION  
296 Laurel Park Place, Hendersonville, NC 28791

#### OFFICERS

**President:**  
Sam McDowell (704) 871-9801

**Vice President:**  
John Melius (704) 663-6444 ext2

**Treasurer:**  
Gary Ritchie (704) 482-8090

**Secretary:**  
Mary Bachand (828) 696-8372

**Program Chairman:**  
John Melius (704) 663-6444 ext 2

**Journal Editor:**  
Barb Ward (704) 480-8931

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ken Phillips (828) 728-3927  
(Term exp. 2007)

Jim Miles (704) 661-0600  
(Term exp. 2008)

Bill Williams (704) 871-9051  
(Term exp. 2009)

Scott Caskey (704) 735-2382  
(Term exp. 2009)

Jim Moore (828) 478-9586  
(Term exp. 2009)

Sharon Lochaby (704) 825-8773  
(Term exp. 2009)

**Past President:** David Kaylor (704) 892-8554

Journal Editor: Barb Ward, 2103 Windermere Lane, Shelby, NC 28150  
(704) 480-8931      [bubbyward@carolina.rr.com](mailto:bubbyward@carolina.rr.com)  
Internet: [www.ncwoodturners.com](http://www.ncwoodturners.com)

*... 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))

**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 Barb Ward with your information for the newsletter.

**Gallery Photos** by Scott Caskey



Gary Ritchie—Cherry & Cocobolo



Bob Winter—Norfolk Island Pine



Sam McDowell—Mahogany horsdeouvres tray



Orville Shook—Maple & Walnut



Bob Winter—E. India Rosewood



Jerry Ostrander—Maple



Joey Stevens—Cherry



Max Schronce—Spalted Maple



Jim Miles—Bloodwood & Maple



Orville Shook—Maple Tulips



Robert Nicks—Cherry



Joey Stevens—Cherry

**Gallery Photos** by Scott Caskey



Bill Piastuch—Norfolk Island Pine



Sam McDowell—Spalted Maple Burl



Jim Miles—Bloodwood, Maple & Walnut



Harold Lineberger—Ambrosia Maple



Bob Winter—Grapefruit



Harold Lineberger—Walnut



Don Olsen—Oak Burl & Zebrano



Gary Ritchie—Pink Ivory



Don Oetjen—Ambrosia Maple & Walnut



Remember, our meetings are always at 1:00pm on the second Saturday of the month at Klingspor's Woodworking Shop in Hickory unless otherwise noted in the Journal.

**NEXT MEETING: November 10th— 10:00am—4:00pm**

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