



North Carolina WOODTURNER

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

April 2008

Volume 18, No. 4



Michael McNeilly—Yellow Pine



Russell Willis—Pine—March Challenge Project

Inside this issue:

President's Message	2
Membership & Library News	2
Program Notes	3
Demonstrator Review	3-6
AAW Symposium	6
Volunteers Needed	6
Lathe for Sale	6
Jet Tools Sweepstakes	6
Marathon Challenge	7-8
Camp Grimes Picnic	9
NCW Demonstration Calendar	10
Board of Directors & Mentors List	10
Gallery Photos	11-12



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.



Orville Shook—Black Walnut Bowl
With Maple Eggs

President's Message by John Melius

First - Thanks to all those who helped in the set-up and take-down for the last meeting; to Barb Ward for donating the commercial coffee maker and to Max and Steve for making the coffee which made Mary's baked goodies taste even better! AND, if you partake, please remember to put a little money in the "kitty" to offset expenses for both coffee and goodies.

As a reminder, I have applications for the AAW available to those who do not take advantage of this publication.

I also have copies of the 2008 course catalogs for Arrowmont and John C. Campbell. For those who might want to join the fun, I've been asked to assist Alan Hollar during his class from August 17-22 and August 22-24. It should be a great learning experience. Alan is a wonderful instructor and maybe I can add something more than just sweeping the floor!

From "Woodworker's Supply", I have a CD on the No. 1 Lathe by Woodtek. I'll give this to Mary to loan to anyone interested.

Coming up:

- * April 5, 2008 - "A Day At The Lathe" Presented by Southern Piedmont Woodturners, Concord, NC. Featuring Dave Barriger, Larry Hasiak and John Lucas
- * May 22-24, 2008 - Utah Woodturning Symposium
- * September 19-21, 2008 - Turning Southern Style XIV, presented by the Georgia Association of Woodturners. Featuring Jimmy Clewes, David Ellsworth, Bonnie Klein, Phil Colson, Nick Cook and Gorst DuPlessis

I have more information and registration forms for those interested.

Lastly - here I go again - thanks to all those who help in making our Club a great place to congregate, learn and socialize.

Membership & Library News by Mary Bachand

Library: Everett Tucker told me that the DVD cabinet that he volunteered to build is coming along nicely. This will be a welcome addition as our DVD collection is really growing.

Membership: Our president John bragged on the wonderful "volunteerism" among our members in our March journal. Now I want to have my say. (Have you ever known of anything to stop me?)

When we got to the meeting, we were running late. Right away I saw that a number of people were helping to get things set up which I'm sure Jesse Wilkinson, our property manager, appreciated. Then Max Schronce and Gene Shook helped bring in all of my stuff. Art Hattaway did a tape job on the "alms box" while Lee French shelved library returns. Barb Ward, who had already printed the membership cards and directories, attached each card to a directory. AND Richard Aultman gave me a HUGE bag of walnuts, already shelled, for baking your goodies. What more can a gal ask for?

Thanks everyone for their contributions. That's the reason I make the long drive once a month. You're the greatest!

**It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do little—
do what you can. ~ Sydney Smith**

In about the same degree as you are helpful, you will be happy.

~ Karl Reiland

Program Notes—Charles Farrar—April 12th, 2008

Artist Statement:

My fascination with the many properties of wood began when I was a child growing up in Southern Virginia.

Some of my vessels have classical forms with finely finished surfaces juxtaposed with pieces that have hand carved, textured or pigmented surfaces. I often think of my ancestors when I add surface treatment to a piece. While Sub-Saharan Africans were master carvers, the Egyptians in North Africa gave to the world, the process of turning wood, using a lathe, in the third century BC.



I am happiest when creating from found woods that feature either spectacular grain pattern, knots, burls or voids, such that the finished work provokes a different commentary.

Ecological sensibility prevents my harvesting living trees solely for the purpose of turning vessels. However once a blank of wood is selected and experience has helped me see inside, I begin the task of unlocking the beauty within. I work on a custom built Nichols lathe (weighs nearly a ton) and use specific tools for the different stages of turning; bark removal, shaping and hollowing. The best work requires great

concentration. On occasion, I still give up nearly finished vessels to the "bowl god."



Wood radiates divinity. In turning, I explore the depths of its very soul—releasing its inner essence. It tells me what it wants to be. The extent to which I'm able to listen determines the degree of my success.

Enjoy warm, wonderful, wood—*Charles Farrar*

Demonstrator Review - Alan Hollar — March 8, 2008 by Mike Mills

Best quotation of the day: This is "art", not "rocket science"

Alan is an impressive demonstrator... and not just because he stands about 6 and a half feet tall! He has a casual mastery of the art and craft of woodturning, and is able to give a good explanation of several ways of approaching each problem. During the course of the day, he had a few things which did not go right to plan... and he was able to make the 'new design opportunity' work!

He showed several different projects, all using cherry burl. Alan likes it because it is plentiful in this area, although not always easy to work with.

Burls in general-

Alan was asked "What exactly causes burl?" and his reply was "If we knew, we could cultivate it". Burl is much sought after for different types of woodworking and especially for wood turning. It seems to be caused by the tree's reaction to some type of injury. Burl may be found on one side of the tree or all the way around it. However, the burl that grows around the tree may actually be two or more separate burls which have grown together. Once the woodworker gets into it, they may find that the burl does not have a solid link up between the sections. When this happens, the turner will want to avoid having the loose joint in a critical location in the piece.

When evaluating a chunk of burl, remember: if it is very sound looking it may have a lot of sapwood. Sapwood provides a lot of movement but also great texture. On the other hand, if it is rather nasty looking then there is likely to be very little sapwood and thus very little movement after the piece is turned. Any bark inclusions that are discovered as you begin to turn are reason for caution. They are usually not terribly sound and tend to come apart.

Alan suggests that we turn a burl when it is as green as possible to avoid sapwood cracks and splits. The real challenge with burls is to "turn with the grain" ... how can you do this when the grain changes every fraction of an inch? This is part of the challenge of turning this material ... but the results are worth it!

When turning burls always be prepared to go to "Plan B" ... be ready to make design changes on the fly. Generally the burl will dictate the results and the turner should be ready to go with the flow.

Drying -

Alan was asked about the best approach for drying burls after turning. He does not recommend using a microwave unless you want to heat and shape the turning. If you are in a very dry environment, you may wish to slow the drying process a little bit. Put the finished turning into a paper bag for two or three days and then open the bag to allow all dry air into it. If you are in a very moist environment then you need to encourage air circulation around the piece to prevent mold. If the piece has a lot of sapwood you can expect that there will be quite a bit of movement and possibly some cracking. If there is very little sapwood then the piece is generally stable.

Finishing-

Alan has a very simple approach to finishing his pieces. He applies some type of oil which enhances and displays the grain of the burl. He will leave the oil on for up to three days before applying an overcoat of finish. He checks to make sure that there is no more oil weeping out of the piece before he applies a final coating of lacquer to protect the item... he knows that his customers are unlikely to re-oil a piece and he wants it to stay looking good. He was asked if he uses boiled linseed oil and he replied that he prefers not to use it. It is not consistent and predictable enough for a professional turner ... the drying time varies considerably between the different brands.

Design considerations -

Rim - Form - Inside - this is the order in which people see a bowl. The first thing that draws their eye to the piece is the rim. If it is a natural edge, they are drawn to the unusual shape and texture. They then are drawn to the overall shape and form of the piece. Lastly, they look inside the piece to see what is exposed there. If we remember these three points as we are turning a bowl we can create a piece that people will want to have.

Wood turning is a method of creating form. If the form would not look good painted flat black, the figure will not make up for it. There are some standard proportions that work well for most forms. For example, for a "practical" bowl (that is one that may be actually used) the foot should be approximately one-third the total diameter of the rim. For a more decorative bowl (such as a natural edge), the foot can be 20 percent of the rim size or even smaller.

When designing your shape, avoid using portions of a simple circular arc. Instead go for catenary curves, French curves and the like. These shapes are much more pleasing to the eye.

Alan is a very practical turner ... wood it does not "speak to him". Instead, he knows the technical aspects of the wood and works within its limits to create things of beauty.

Unusual items -

The first piece Alan made was a small bowl with two natural edges... a rim and a wing. To appreciate this piece, you need to see the tape of the session! He produces a piece which has a uniform thickness (about 1/4") to the bowl and the wing. During the creation process, he uses a number of different gouges, each with slightly different grind angles. He says that you could do it with fewer tools, but he likes to have a fresh, sharp tool to fit each challenge of the turning process. He even uses a gouge for the finishing cuts on the inside, mostly because he is not as comfortable using a scraper. Use what you do best!

Instead of a jam chuck, Alan uses a wood friction drive... he shapes a piece of poplar or white pine to roughly the inside form of the bowl. It is important that it fit all the way to the bottom, rather than up in the shoulder area... again, see the tape for details.

Hollow forms -

Thinking of those three design considerations [*Rim - Form - Inside*], Alan likes to create his hollow forms with the burl on the top and the plain wood at the bottom. The natural edge of the burl on the top of his form draws the eye to it. He likes to keep the burl figure visible in the top one-third to one-half of the piece. He also likes to have the base diameter be just a little bit smaller than the diameter of the flared rim of the form.

When mounting a chunk of burl on the lathe, it is necessary to drill through the bark to get good contact for the drive spur. For a hollow form, you want to make sure this hole is not bigger than what you will want use for the hollowing process. Think about the set of tools you have for hollowing and select the appropriate sized bit.

Hold the burl between centers, and roughly shape the piece leaving an appropriate tenon for mounting in your chuck. As you shape the neck of the piece you may choose whether or not to have a "flare" shape. Be careful as you shape the neck because you might break the burl around the top of the piece. This would leave you without the natural edge to draw the eye to the top of the piece. It's not a total disaster but something you might want to avoid.

After you get the rough shape worked out, you can begin to create your final shape. Gentle cuts are best as the material can be somewhat tricky to work with. When you have achieved the shape you desire use fine shaving cuts to finish the form and reduce the amount of sanding required. Remove the piece from between the centers and turn it around to mount it in the jaws of your chuck. Make sure that the tenon seats firmly into the jaws but does not bottom out. Your tenon design and shape will depend upon the jaws you select for your chuck.

For hollowing it is best to begin by boring a depth hole, leaving enough material at the bottom of the form so that you will not break through when you reverse chuck to finish the bottom. Alan does his hollowing using a Jamieson style boring bar. This system uses an elongated bar to hold the bits on one end while the other end is held by a capture bar. This is much less stressful than the old-style arm brace hollowing tools. Alan did not demonstrate his hollowing technique ... he acknowledges that it is not terribly entertaining to watch this process!

Because the burl material is not always structurally sound, Alan will frequently wrap the piece with two inch packing tape just hold it together while he does the hollowing. He does not always try to keep the bark on the natural edge, but it is an "all-or-nothing" proposition ... if it blows off part of the rim, take it all off.

Natural edge bowls -

Alan typically turns bowls in the 13 in. to 14 in. diameter range. He prefers to run his lathe for pieces at somewhere around 500 to 600 rpm of this size. But his system is not based on watching a tachometer ... he starts spinning the piece at slow speed and gradually turns up the RPM's until the lathe begins to shake a bit. He then backs the speed down until the shaking stops and that is where it he begins the roughing process.

Again, he drills a hole through the bark into the burl wood to allow the drive center to penetrate into something more solid than the bark. Alan uses an aggressive cut to take off a lot of wood until he switches to a more gentle cut near the rim. He does this to avoid breaking off chunks of bark and wood near the edge of the piece. If a piece breaks off, you might not be able to glue it back on. Sometimes you cannot avoid losing a chunk here or there and this is where you have a new design opportunity.

Since Alan turns most of his pieces using "green" burl, he makes sure that he stops and tightens the chuck periodically. The chuck jaws crush the fibers of the wood and the stresses of cutting the piece will tend to loosen the grip slightly. He also does not recommend trying to create a tenon in the pith wood of the burl, especially if it is already cracked. Larger jaws can compensate (somewhat).

Bowl Coring Systems -

Alan discussed the relative merits of a few of the ones on the market. For his purposes, using a saver system saves time and good wood. He points out that each system has things in its favor and other things (such as cost) that are less favorable.

Overall -

This was a day well spent... it would be useful to see him again in the near future. Also, I think that he would be a very good instructor for small group or one-on-one sessions. If he is at one of the future symposiums, it would be a good investment of time to check out his rotation.

Lathe for Sale!

Delta 1642 Model, 16", 2HP, Variable Speed Lathe for sale. It has a total of 50 hours on it.

Included is a Nova Chuck and a Screw Drive Center & Live Center.

Price: \$1200

Contact Harold Gomez at:

Phone: 704-462-2314

Email: halaud@charter.net



2008 AAW Symposium Instant Gallery—Volunteers Needed!

Supporting an AAW Symposium is a regional affair. We need the help of all the clubs in and around Richmond, VA to put together a world-class event. Wondering how you can help out at the AAW Symposium and still make all the rotations and activities you want to attend? Consider volunteering to help at the *Instant Gallery!* Get the first look at new, innovative turnings as they get registered in the IG. Meet the turners and talk to them about their creations. Help the turners display their pieces for maximum impact and visibility. Work for as long as you want, whenever you, any time during the Symposium weekend. We especially need help during the Thursday registration period (2:30 pm to 7:00 pm) when nothing else is going on, but when most turners are submitting their pieces to the Instant Gallery.

If you can dedicate some time to helping make this IG the best ever,
please contact Jim Marstall at 540-872-4489 or e-mail him at jim@marstall.com

**ATTENTION
NCW MEMBERS!!**

You can enter this sweepstakes by visiting
www.jettools.com
Follow the on-screen links and entry instructions.
NO PURCHASE NECESSARY!

WIN BIG!
WITH THE ULTIMATE YEAR-LONG GIVEAWAY!
Enter for a chance to win our monthly JET Tools Anniversary Sweepstakes and automatically be entered to win our year ending Ultimate Work Shop Grand Prize.
THIS MONTH'S PRIZE: 12" X 20" MINI LATHE
YEAR END GRAND PRIZE: \$10,000 WORKSHOP!
50 INSTANT PRIZES!
FIRST 50 ENTRANTS FOR THIS MONTH'S PRIZE
RECEIVE BONUS GIVEAWAY JET BASEBALL HAT
ENTER NOW FOR MARCH

March Challenge Project—Turn a Lidded Vessel

Can YOU Go the Distance In 2008?

Marathoners are those who complete all 12 challenge projects for 2008. Those who successfully finish the marathon will be awarded a

\$50 gift certificate from Klingspor And a Trophy!

The awards presentation will take place at the December Christmas Party in 2008. Also each month, the most creative entry will be picked. The turner with the most creative entry will win a *\$10 gift certificate!*

MARATHON RULES

- **2008 Entries must be turned in 2008! The only exception is the January 2008 entry. It may be turned in December 2007.**
- **Entries must not have been shown before.**
- **If you miss a month's challenge, you can bring it to the next month's meeting.**

CHALLENGE PROJECT WINNER!



Gary Ritchie—Keepsake Boxes



Ken Phillips—Wenge & Maple

	J	F	M
Dave Allen *			
Evanna Brening			
Scott Caskey *			
Steve Hoyle *			
Edgar Ingram *			
Harold Lineberger *			
James Livingston *			
Sharon Lochaby *			
Claude Lucas *			
Sam McDowell *			
Ron Mechling *			
John Melius *			
Jim Miles *			
Jerry Ostrander *			
Ken Phillips *			
Max Schronce *			
Orville Shook *			
Russell Willis *			

2008 Challenge Projects

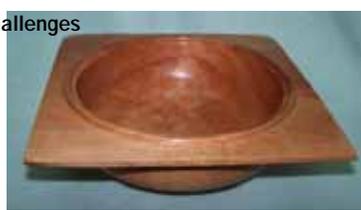
- * **January - Turn a Toy** <http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Projects/baby-rattle.html>
- * **February—Turn a Square Edge Bowl** http://www.teknaatool.com/projects/Toolbox_Square%20Edged%20Bowl.pdf
- * **March - Turn a Lidded Vessel** http://www.turnwood.net/gallery_boxes_lidded_forms.html (examples only, no instructions)
- * **April - Turn a Trivet** <http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Projects/trivet.html>
- * **May - Turn it, cut it up, and create a piece of art!**
- * **June - Turn it and color it (no burning)**
- * **July - Turn a Bottle Stopper** <http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Projects/bottlestoppers.html>
- * **August - Turn a Spoon or a Spatula** <http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Projects/spoons.html>
- * **September - Turn a Gavel** <http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Projects/gavel.html>
- * **October -Turn a Lamp** <http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Projects/lamps.html>
- * **November - Turn a Lazy Susan Server** <http://aroundthewoods.com/lazy.shtml>
- * **December - Turn Christmas Ornaments** <http://www.margefelder.com/ornaments/turned-wood-christmas-tree-ornaments.htm>



Scott Caskey—Purpleheart



Claude Lucas—Maple



John Melius—Cherry



Claude Lucas
Holly & Mahogany

March Challenge Project—Turn a Lidded Vessel



Steve Hoyle—Ambrosia Maple



Orville Shook—Maple, Walnut, Cherry
With Happy Face Top!



Max Schronce—Cherry Burl



Jerry Ostrander—Mulberry



Russell Willis—Magnolia



Sharon Lochaby & Hilary Hansen
Purpleheart painted with Gesso & Carved



Jim Miles—Staved Pallet Wood



Sam McDowell
Norfolk Island Pine & Purpleheart



Ron Mechling—Walnut & Birch



Brad Indicott—Burl, Blackwood & Maple



Dave Allen
Composite Tupelo & American Chestnut



Sharon Lochaby—Ring box



John Melius—Cape Beech



Edgar Ingram—Maple, Cherry, Walnut

Camp Grimes—May 10th Meeting & Picnic

Location: Camp Grimes Boy Scout Camp on Hwy 226 between Shelby & Marion (directions: mycampgrimes.org)

Time: 1:00pm until about 7:00 pm

Great Programs

Come and enjoy a great outdoors setting at a beautiful location! Lots of special turning & wood related programs.

Band saw mill

David Houser from Spruce Pine, will bring his portable bandsaw mill to saw timber. We will have logs to cut up into bowl blanks that you can take home. Bring your logs, he can saw them for you.

See: <http://www.bellsouthpwp.net/d/a/dahouser/log2lbr.html>

Tree identification & nature walk

Camp Ranger Carl Curnutte and Russell Willis will lead a walk to identify trees suitable for woodturning, and will look for other plants and native wildflowers

Blacksmithing

Local blacksmith Gary Lester will do a demo on blacksmithing and participants will make a simple tool.

1850 Log Cabin Tour

Mike Hartje will give tour of Camp Grimes's 1850 homesite, showing what life was like during this era.

Poplar Bark Baskets

Make your own Poplar bark basket in the Frontier Cabin area with Mike Hartje

Lumberjack

Former professional lumberjack Eddie Sandy will show how the pros compete in lumberjack sports with axes, crosscut saws, chainsaws & tree climbing.

Chainsaw usage & bowl blank cutting

Scott Caskey will teach chain saw usage and help you cut your own bowl blanks to take home.

Camping - Scott Caskey will lead camp out Friday night. Full RV hookups, Rustic cabins or tents available – contact Jim Miles for info.

Spouses are welcome and may participate in any of the programs

Wood swap/sale - bring your wood or blanks to sell or trade.

Regular Monthly Instant Gallery, Challenge Project, Raffle

Food - We will be grilling steaks and chicken with all “the fixings” You must sign up to be included in meal count.

Bring - Wood for swap, Gallery items, Monthly challenge items

“Be prepared” for outdoors weather!!

Sign up:

At meeting, or email Jim Miles at jim9miles@aol.com or call 704-661-0600 by Monday May 5. There is a \$10.00 per person charge to cover expenses. Questions: contact Jim.



NCW 2008 Demonstration Calendar

- * **January 12**—1pm—4pm—Chuck Cameron—Safety
- * **February 9**—1pm—4pm—NancyLynn Sharpless
- * **March 8**—10am—4pm—Alan Hollar
- * **April 12**—10am—4pm—Charles Farrar
- * **May 10**—1pm—7pm—Camp Grimes Picnic—Great Fun & Food!
- * **June 14** 1pm—4pm—Jim Miles—Stave Construction
- * **July 12**—Mike Mills
- * **August 9**—Sharon Doughtie
- * **September 13**—10am—4pm—Bill McInnis—Carving & Texturing
- * **October 11**—10am—4pm - Morris Schlesinger
- * **Nov 8**—TBD
- * **December 13**—Christmas Party

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.
- * Chuck Cameron (Hickory, NC) 828-381-2673
- * 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.

... 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)

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

If you want to volunteer as a mentor, please contact Barb Ward with your information for the newsletter.



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:
John Melius (704) 663-6444 ext2

Vice President:
Greg Crowder (828) 874-6927

Treasurer:
Gary Ritchie (704) 482-8090

Secretary:
Mary Bachand (828) 696-8372

Programs Chairman:
Greg Crowder (828) 874-6927

Journal Editor:
Barb Ward (704) 480-8931

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Evanna Brening (704) 740-8026
(Term exp. 2010)

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

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

Scott Caskey (704) 740-7630
(Term exp. 2009)

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

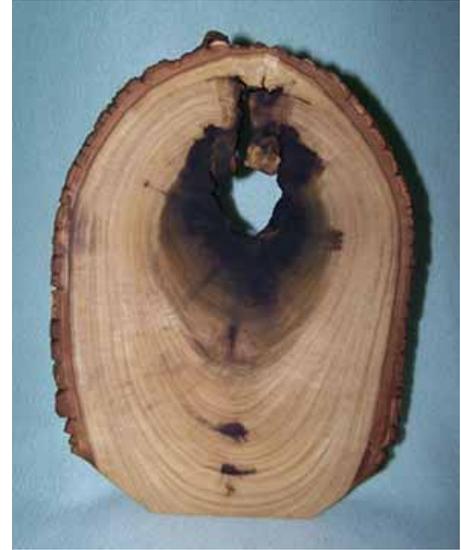
Sharon Lochaby (704) 825-8773
(Term exp. 2009)

Past President: Sam McDowell (704) 871-9801

Journal Editor: Barb Ward, 2103 Windermere Lane, Shelby, NC 28150
(704) 480-8931 bubsyward@carolina.rr.com
Internet: www.ncwoodturners.com



Sam McDowell—Burly Maple



Ron Mechling—Poplar



Claude Lucas—Cocabola & Deer Antler



Russell Willis—Cherry Burl



Michael McNeilly—Cherry

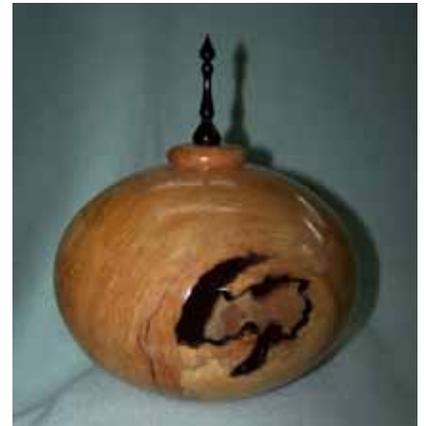


Scott Caskey—Poplar

Gallery Photos by Scott Caskey



Edgar Ingram—Walnut



Jerry Ostrander—Sycamore



Ron Mechling—Poplar



Max Schronce—Cherry Burl



Robert Nicks—Cherry



Don Olsen—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: April 12th—10:00—4:00 pm

visit us on the web at www.ncwoodturners.com