



Volume 24, No. 1

Website: [www.ncwoodturners.com](http://www.ncwoodturners.com)

## North Carolina WOODTURNERS

Journal of the North Carolina Woodturners Association

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners



### January 2014 Demonstrator By Beth Parham

Jerry Measimer is an accomplished artist and woodturner, specializing in wooden hats, bowls, vessels and other work. His hats cover a variety of types – derbies, top hats, cowboy hats miniature hats. These end up being 1/8” thick. They are awesome to see and, personally, I can’t wait to see him turn (missed that in October by working the Extravaganza).



His work is available in his gallery as well as other venues. He has served as president of Southern Piedmont Woodturners and has been an instructor at Arrowmont Craft School in Gatlinburg, TN.

### Contents

January 2014 Demonstrator	1
Lions Clubs International	1
President’s Message	2
Newsletter/Membership/Library News	3
January Raffle Items	4
2014 Challenge Projects	4
2014 Programs (and presenters)	4
2014 Officers and Board of Directors	5
Mentorship Information	5
Challenge Project Photos	5
Gallery Photos	5
Tips, Tricks ‘N Techniques	6
Words to Turn By	7

### Lions Clubs International

Remember to bring all donations to help the Lions Club with their fund raising efforts for the trip for the blind to **the January meeting** or leave them at Klingspor’s Woodworking Shop – just tell the guys at the counter the items are for “the Lions Club”. Great way for us to give back to our community as a club.



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 Renhard McLaurin

### Addition and Subtraction

I hate to admit it, but I was once a flat wood craftsman. It has taken many years of therapy and countless angles that did not add up to 90, but I have finally made it to a much happier style of life. In my day, I made several pieces of furniture including a bed for each of my children. They are beautiful if I do say so myself, and will hopefully be passed down to my grandchildren.

This last weekend I was cutting up and turning some of the sycamore tree that was donated to the club last year. (If you remember, I showed up with a trailer full that Scott and I had harvested from someone's front yard.) I ended up with some large pieces that were left over and they were taking up way too much room in my garage.

The urge to start fresh for the new year had struck, and I was cleaning out the garage. (The urge took the form of something like, "You have got to do something about the garage" and it sounded exactly like my wife.) A couple of rather large blocks were obstructing a path and I decided to take the chain saw to them and rough turn them so they could be moved out of the way. As I was turning one of the blocks the realization that turning is a process of subtraction rather than addition came to mind. To make my block of wood the shape I had chosen I was removing wood to expose the shape. When I was working with flat wood, the opposite was true. In flat wood, we add to and join items to make up the shape. True, there are a few segmented turners in our midst who warp the entire process by adding to a form in order to make something that they later subtract from to develop their final product.

It is not an earth shaking realization that ours is a diversion of subtraction. Many before me, and I am sure many after, will understand this same concept. The reason the thought had such a profound impact on me this time is that while I was turning this bowl form, I was contemplating what would make it "special" for the intended recipient. The shape of the bowl itself would have a great impact on the final attractiveness of the piece. How big does the foot need to be and where to place the widest part of the bowl are all very important design elements as we are often reminded. My turnings are often half the size of the original block of wood due to me shaving more and more off the piece in order to get the right proportions. I had recently purchased a texturing tool. I was thinking about where along the rim I could place a nice textured band and then offset it the way Frank Penta had taught us to do with a line to highlight the texture.

In the end, my realization of turning being a process of subtraction led, in my mind, to a dialogue of how adding to a turning with "off the lathe" enhancements affects its beauty. There is no doubt that these enhancements can make an item beautiful. One look at "The American Woodturner" magazine and you will see that most of the items pictured in the pages were worked on off the lathe more than between centers. The items are beautiful but show little resemblance to items I have turned. Many appear closer to items I have seen in carving exhibitions and modern art galleries than they do to the round shapes coming off my lathe.

In the end, the discourse in my mind led me to the same conclusion I have written about in prior president letters. Sam's comments at our last meeting summarize my personal feelings on the matter of enhancements to turnings. Sam said that the object of turning is to show the beauty of the wood. Please don't take this wrong. Some

of the most beautiful works that I have seen were adorned with enhancements. Both in the magazine and in our own gallery I have seen exquisite works of art. My thoughts were simplified into the realization that FOR ME, the art of turning is in the ability to exhibit the wood in the most pleasant form, rather than hide the wood behind paint or carvings. This is just one man's opinion. Perhaps it is biased by the fact that I have not mastered the art of turning, much less the ability to enhance a turned surface. Ask me again after I learn more about carving and painting.

## Newsletter/Membership/Library News

By Beth Parham

### Newsletter

Who will be this month's "Presenter Reviewer"? An individual to volunteer help create the write-up for those wanting some way to reference points or those members unable to make the meeting. Please see me and sign up for the month's to be my "helper". I'll wordsmith (clean up) spelling, etc., so you don't have to worry about that. Thanks.

### Library

Still wadding through the library. Since I've now "retired" from Klingspor, I hope to devote a weekend or so to getting everything updated/labeled/identified as here or "missing" Please check your homes for any book/magazine/DVD/VHS that you may have out. There are a few items that still show being checked out by the card system. I have not completed my inventory of the materials to see what may have been turned back in without being checked in correctly and what may be missing/damaged in our library. I will then do some investigating about anything new that we may want to add to our library.

### Membership

Several paid memberships at the Christmas party. **Memberships are due by March, 2014 meeting** or you will be dropped from the roster which means you would lose your Klingspor club member discount. You can pay at the meetings or send to me via mail. Please pay by cash/check/money orders; we are not set up for credit card payments.

*Types of Membership and annual pricing.* See me at meetings if you want to join or have questions regarding membership. Also, remember that membership entitles you to a 10% discount from Klingspor on all purchases (except wood and things with a plug).

- ❖ Regular \$50/year –
  - After July 1<sup>st</sup> - \$40.00;
  - After October 1<sup>st</sup> - \$55.00, which includes the following year.
- ❖ Centurion \$100/year (paid to NCW Education Fund. Includes special name tag.)
- ❖ Lifetime \$600 one time paid to NCW Education Fund. Includes membership for life and special name tag
- ❖ Benefactor \$1,000 one-time paid to NCW Education Fund. Includes honorary membership in NCW (designed for businesses)



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.

### January Raffle Items

By Evanna Brening/Scott Caskey

- 1/8" Diamond Parting Tool 246XW
- Thin CA Adhesive (2.5 oz)
- 3" Sponge Pad H&L Medium W/ Spindle
- Chuck #2MT 0-1/2"
- Sealtite Wood Sealer
- PS33 60C 3" No Hole K/O Scalloped disc (50 pk)
- 1/4" Sorby Fingernail Bowl Gouge (842F)
- 10-pk set of Slimline pen kits



(Raffle Items are always subject to change from what is posted in the newsletter.)

### 2014 Challenge Projects

By Scott Caskey

MONTH	CHALLENGE PROJECT	SKILLS TARGETED
January	Rolling Pin	Basic spindle work
February	Item/any item for Lions Club trip to beach	
March	Platter	Face plate work
April	Jewelry Stand	Spindle and face plate
May	Lidded box	With finial and textured and/or carved embellishments
June	Duplicate a piece of art / glass / pottery in wood	Bring object (or photo) of piece being copied
July	Ball	Round as round can get
August	Glue it up! Something made from something you glued up	Creativity and using scrap wood from the shop
September	Maracas	
October	Bracelet / Broach / Jewelry	
November	Something you made at Extravaganza	Sharing our skills with community
December	Hollow form	Hollowing

### 2014 Programs (and presenters)

By Renhard McLaurin

MONTH	PRESENTER	TOPIC
January	Jerry Measimer	Demonstrating turning cowboy hats <a href="http://www.jerry measimer.com/">http://www.jerry measimer.com/</a>
February	Morris Schlesinger	Unique design for pepper mills (AM) Showcasing thread cutting and sharpening (PM)
March	Frank Penta	TIME: 10 AM – 1 PM
April	Individual from Symposium	
May	Club Member / TBD	TBA
June	Don Olsen	TBA
July	Club Member / TBD	TBA
August	Jim Duxbury	Kaleidoscope <a href="http://www.dusterity.com">Http://www.dusterity.com</a>
September	All you want to know about Wood (AM portion of meeting)	Inlay (PM port6ion of meeting)
October	Finishing	TBA
November	Learn and Turn – Bring a guest!	Club members – teachers/mentors
December	Christmas Party	

## 2014 Officers and Board of Directors

Slate to be finalized at January 2014 meeting – new treasurer and BOD members.

OFFICERS		
President	Renhard McLaurin	(704) 838-0099
VP/ Program Chair	Mike Mills	(704) 483-7315
Treasurer	<b>Bruce Whipple</b>	
Secretary Journal Editor	Beth Parham	(828) 294-4001
Website Director	Mike Mills	(704) 483-7315
Past President	Evanna Brening	(704) 740-8026

BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
Brent Cook	(704) 990-6995
<i>Last year of term (term expires 2014)</i>	
Gene Parham	(828) 294-4001
<i>Last year of term (term expires 2014)</i>	
Ed Mackey	(704) 537-2997
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> year of term (term expires 2015)</i>	
Jerry Long	(704) 483-9460
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> year of term (term expires 2015)</i>	
<b>Tim Simmons</b>	(828) 726-1599
<i>1<sup>st</sup> year of term (term expires 2016)</i>	
<b>Tom Denne</b>	(828) 584-0890
<i>1<sup>st</sup> year of term (term expires 2016)</i>	

## Mentorship Information

If you are interested in learning new skills, or improving the skills you have, contact one of these NCW members:

Scott Caskey (Iron Station, NC)	704-735-2382	Edgar Ingram (Statesville, NC)	704-876-4576
Sam McDowell (Statesville, NC)	704-871-9801	John Melius ( Mooresville, NC)	704-663-0757
Jim Miles (Cornelius, NC)	704-661-0600	Don Olsen (Lincolnton, NC)	704-735-9335

## Challenge Project Photos

By Scott Caskey

No Challenge pictures this month – no photos taken at Christmas party – day was hectic for Scott and I but thoroughly enjoyable.

## Gallery Photos

By Scott Caskey

No Challenge pictures this month – no photos taken at Christmas party – day was hectic for Scott and I but thoroughly enjoyable.

**Tips, Tricks 'N Techniques** is a revamped "Beginner's Corner". These tips, techniques and suggestions will be of most interest to those members who are in the early stage of their turning career. But we all can benefit from refreshing our memories on various topics. Sometimes we just get in a slump and assume we recall all information. Some articles will be "recycled" tips/techniques from past years of the newsletter (Beginners' Corner" and new articles as well. Please feel free to submit your questions/suggestions/requests for subjects in this section. Never hurts to knock the dust off our brains from time to time.

**Woodturner on Board -**  
**Tips, Tricks 'N Techniques**  
 (for the new turner but good review for all)

Let's look at making a couple of tools and a jig that will be very helpful when it comes time to do the finish turning on a bowl. These items are quite inexpensive to make.

It's pretty important to know just how deep the inside of the bowl is relative to the bottom of the outside. Many a turner has cut through the bottom of a bowl. There is no joy or pride in doing it, only agony. This is a piece of 1 x 2 about 22" long. Drill a 1/4" hole off center so that there is wood 8" on one side and at least 14" on the other. These dimensions are for use with a 16" swing lathe. Buy a piece of 1/4" curtain rod about 10" long. Using a saber saw cut out some wood about 2" on either side of the hole. This will allow the wood to flex holding the rod tightly in position when the thumbscrew is tightened.



In use, the long side is placed across the bowl rim; the rod is positioned to the desired depth by sighting along the bottom of the rod. Then move the jig so that the rod is on the inside. This will tell you how much more wood can be safely removed. Remember to true up the rim before taking this measurement and, if you take any more cuts on the rim, be sure to reset the rod.

The top scraper in the bottom picture has a short 10" handle with a 2" x 1/4" section of hardened steel but a piece of thin planer blade would work just as well. With it you can scrape the outside of a bowl and, because the scraper can pivot, you can scrape by moving the cutter in either direction. Sometimes the larger diameter will be close to the head stock and sometimes nearer the tailstock. Scrape uphill if you can. The rod is short – only 4 1/2" for good control – and 5/8 cold rolled steel. Use your grinder and a coarse file to create the flat where the scraper rests. It should be smooth so the scraper can pivot easily. Grind a relief at the back to facilitate pivoting. Drill and tap for a 1/4 x 20 bolt.



The second scraper shown is useful for the inside of a bowl. Therefore it needs to have a long reach, 10" out of the handle. The handle needs to be long for good control – in this case 19". The scraper itself was ground from a shaper blade

purchased at Sears. Similar shear scraper cutters can be purchased from the catalogues. The cheapest I've seen is \$17. That's too much for me. Find an old planer blade and shape it using one of those fiberglass impregnated silicon carbide metal cutting discs then grind it to suit. (Reprinted from the February, 2005 issue of our newsletter).

## Words to Turn By

*Using courtesy of Woodturning Design and Robert Gulley – Part I*

**Banjo** – Part on lathe that slides along the bed and supports the tool rest. The banjo uses a locking mechanism to hold or clamp the tool rest base in place as needed. Most units use a simple cam/lever mechanism that rotates a plate or bar into place along the length of the banjo. It is an item you should test when looking at a new lathe – does it move smoothly and lock easily along the bed at various angles; how solidly does it lock in place? The banjo need to provide a solid support for the tool rest. It should accept standard diameter tool rest shafts. It needs to be able to be moved out of the way (or removed completely) when sanding, finishing, or carving.

**Bed** – the horizontal part of the lathe that connects and aligns the headstock and tailstock. This is an important element of a lathe, not only because of the alignment aspect, but also because if the bed is not made well, it can warp or twist under pressure. A bed may be one or two rails (new fact I just learned); Single rails can be difficult to align, but this can be more of an issue of what you are familiar with in day-to-day use. Round rails seem the most awkward; they allow the banjo/tool rest combination to rotate, but there is a definite advantage in that the bed is less likely to warp. Most beds have two rails and made of cast iron. The banjo has a track along which it can move, and the track and bed surface must be kept clean for smooth operation.

**Bevel** - The bevel of a tool refers to the area directly underneath the cutting edge of a tool, such as a scraper or gouge. (This was a hard concept for me to understand in the beginning). This area has different uses depending on the tool, but by far the most common reference to a bevel is for the gouge. The bevel on a gouge is always held in contact with the wood (except in one or two specialized cuts). This bevel contact with the wood is called “rubbing the bevel” and it is crucial that you learn how this cut is done. The bevel under the cutting edge slopes away at an angle (depending by the style of gouge) and actually supports the wood fibers while the cut is being made. When the bevel does not rub the wood as the cut is being made, the gouge edge becomes similar to a scraper and actually tears the wood fibers, as well as making the whole cut rather unstable. However, scraping cuts (and scrapers) definitely have their place.

Though some turners create multiple bevels on their tools for specific cutting styles, as a beginner, your goal should be to create a smooth bevel without any “facets” that can lie against the wood and give a stable, well-controlled cut. If the tool has multiple facets, you will have greater difficulty controlling the cuts, and there will be areas of the workpiece that will not cut cleanly (if at all) until the bevel is smooth.

**Blank** – A wood “blank” is the term usually given to a piece of wood that has been prepared in some way for turning – that is, one that has been rounded smooth or cut into a section designed for lathe use. A piece of wood cut off from a log but still in rough form, it is usually referred to as a log, section, or piece.

**Burl** – This term is usually given for an unusual growth on a tree that produces some very interesting grain patterns – and turning challenges! In British writings, you might see “burr” used for the same thing. A burl is different from a “knot” which usually indicates a radical change in growth direction, such as from a tree limb. No one really knows how and why they form, but if a tree is damaged in some way, a burl will often result as the tree heals and covers over the damage. A similar change in grain pattern may occur at the joint where a tree trunk forks, but this is usually referred to as “crotch” wood, and can produce some amazing grain patterns. Burls in wood often make for

**Burr** – Not to be confused with a burl, a burr refers to the slightly raised edge of metal left by a grinding wheel after sharpening. This edge can either be used as a cutting edge (as with a scraper) or it can be honed off for a smooth surface. An uneven burr may leave undesirable marks on a piece when you are nearing completion.

**NEXT MEETING:**

January 11, 2014

Remember, our regular meetings are always on  
**the second Saturday of the month**  
10 pm - 4 pm (with lunch on your own at 12)

**Klingspor's Woodworking Shop**

856 21st Street Drive  
Hickory, NC  
unless otherwise noted in the Journal.



“What I want to learn is the skill, that’s what I want to do. To me there is a difference between art and skill.

And I like to incorporate my skill into my art.”

Measimer says he knows what he is going to have before he starts to work on it.

“I have a vision of what it is going to look like, that is what I try to do,” Measimer said.

He says he enjoys working with the wood turning and it is very addictive.

“Cause once you make something, it’s like you can make something else.” (Jerry Measimer)

North Carolina Woodturners  
c/o Beth Parham  
2154 Frye Avenue  
Hickory, NC 28602

