

# Northwest Woodturners

A Chapter of  
The American Association of Woodturners

Volume 10 Issue 4

April 2006

**Northwest Woodturners** meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00PM. See website for details and map.

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Next Meeting:  
**April 6<sup>th</sup>**

April Learn-2-Turn:  
**Cancelled**

Turning  
Challenge:  
**Turnings that make  
music or sound**



## President's Corner

Exciting times ahead as we head into the summer season. This month we have Christian Burchard demonstrating his green Madrone burl baskets. In June, we will welcome both Jean François Escoulen for a 2-day hands-on class and Mike Darlow for a two day seminar.



I have talked with Mike and he is very excited about our seminar because he will be able to talk through the hows and whys of turning. By understanding how cutting

tools cut you will be better able to apply this knowledge in all aspects of turning. Mike is equally adept at discussing the basics with new turners as he is talking technique with seasoned turners. This should be a fun session and make sure that you have signed up for it by this month's meeting. I have sent flyers around to the other clubs in Oregon and Washington and we have received quite a few reservations from their members.

Also, thank you Lloyd Johnson for again sponsoring the MyFamily site. Lloyd pays for this very nice feature out of his own pocket each and every year and it appears that we are getting more and more activity all the time. Please use this resource to post photos of your work and to pass on other interesting and relevant information such as: free wood sources; techniques; other club seminars; etcetera.

Safe Turning...  
**Tom Reiman**

## April Program

For April we have internationally known woodturner Mr. Christian Burchard. Christian, from Ashland, Oregon, specializes in turning green Madrone burl, the turnings are then dried in a microwave oven with dramatic results.

Christian will be with us for our Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, meeting night. He will then return to Chemwest for an all-day demonstration on Friday the 7<sup>th</sup>, from 9 AM - 4 PM; the cost will be \$25.00 and will be open to 30 people. On Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup>, Christian will offer a hands-on demonstration down at Tom Reiman's place in Woodburn. The cost for Saturday will be \$80.00 and will be open to 8 people. This will be an opportunity to turn side by side and learn from a true artist. Both days will also include lunch. Both days are filling up fast but there is still space available. If you want to get your name on the list, you may either contact me at (503) 234-8515 during the day or at (503) 257-6405 evenings. We will collect money on meeting night; all fees must be paid then. I'm certain that this will be a great time for whatever day you can attend. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Thank You,  
**Fred C. Kline**

## Library News

We already have the book in our library and he has a set of chuck jaws named after him. Now your library has his DVD. This thrilling adventure takes you on a tour in and around the shop of Michael O'Donnell and it is sure to keep you on the cutting edge of your seat. Watch as this master craftsman peels back the layers of waste to reveal the inner beauty of green wood. The plot starts out very thick and slightly unbalanced but our hero presses forward wielding his selection of cold steel tools into the very heart of the beast with the

See **Library** - Continued on page 4

# HOT WAX

By Steven D. Russell — *Reprinted with permission*

Typically, waxes are applied onto the surface of turnings with a soft cloth, rubber or natural bristle brush. After the solvent has sufficiently evaporated, the wax is buffed to develop the lustre. Depending on the solvent used, the time required before you can begin buffing the surface could vary from a few minutes, to twenty-four hours or more. In my production studio I use a high-speed heat assisted method of applying the wax, which helps to speed the evaporation of the solvent and the subsequent buffing of the surface. Safety note: When working with waxes that contain toxic solvents, wear a face shield, suitable gloves for the particular solvent and a respirator outfitted with an organic vapor cartridge.

## High-Speed, Heat Assisted Wax Application for Liquid, Paste and Semisolids

Finish sand the item and remove any dust that may be in the pores of the timber with a blast of compressed air, or a tack rag. Apply a cellulose sanding sealer (if desired) and friction dry with a piece of safety cloth <sup>(1)</sup>. When dry, cut the surface back with a burnishing wax <sup>(2)</sup> or wire wool.

Set your lathe revs to 1200 (or as close to it as safety permits) and apply the wax to the spinning timber with a small piece of safety cloth or a brush. Apply moderate pressure to the spinning work piece, which will create friction and melt the wax. Work the wax impregnated safety cloth back and forth across the surface insuring that the surface is completely covered with the heated wax.

The addition of the heat to the application process helps to saturate the surface fibers of unsealed timber and speeds the evaporation of the solvent

carrier on sealed surfaces.

After the surface has been well covered, change your lathe revs to 2000 (or as close as safety permits) and continue to traverse back and forth across the surface of the timber with moderate pressure using the safety cloth. Many wax solvents will evaporate quickly at this speed and the drying times will be reduced by up to seventy-five percent.

Let the piece spin in the air for a few moments (without applying the safety cloth) to evaporate any remaining solvent. Continue your revs at 2000, and after the wax has dulled you can begin to buff the surface with a clean piece of safety cloth, a soft bristle brush or a lamb's wool pad.

This method is particularly suited to spindle turning but will also work well with smaller bowls and hollow forms. Obviously, the size and shape of the item, number of structural defects present and the quality of the lathe and its fixing will determine the speed at which you can apply and buff the wax. This method is designed to save *time*; something we production turners are concerned about.

## Secrets to Success with Pure, Solid Carnauba Wax

Pure, solid Carnauba wax imparts a brilliant gloss to woodturnings and in my experience, it has proven to be a very durable finish. To achieve the highest possible gloss level, follow these simple rules:

Wash your hands! Any residual bits of sawdust or sanding grit on your fingers will compromise the quality of the gloss, if you touch the piece whilst it is rotating on the lathe.

Cut a small wedge from a solid bar of Carnauba wax. One end of the wedge should taper to a fine point. The other

end should be 5 - 6 mm wide.

Use the fine point end to apply the wax to the turning, whilst it is rotating as fast as you can safely turn the piece. Friction will melt a thin layer of wax onto the surface of the turning.

As you are moving the wax wedge across the turning, you can see a dull band of wax being applied to the surface. Insure that you move at a constant speed across the surface and apply a thin, even coating. Maintain the sharp point on the wedge tip by periodically scraping the area with a knife. These wax scrapings can be kept and melted to form another solid bar.

To buff the piece, start at one end and apply sufficient pressure with a *clean* piece of safety cloth to melt the thin layer of surface wax. Do not apply too much pressure whilst buffing or you will remove the wax. Applying too little pressure will cause streaks. A final light buff across the surface will deliver a brilliant gloss finish.

Larger turnings cannot be polished using this method due to speed and safety considerations. However, you can use "The Beall Buffing System" to safely apply pure Carnauba to the surface of larger turnings using the flannel buffing wheel. Another option is to apply a high grade Carnauba paste wax to the surface and then buff with a soft flannel buffing wheel at 1750 - 2000 revs.

Although I have several solid bars of Carnauba wax from various sources, the finest I have ever had the pleasure to use comes from Kahl, <http://www.kahlwax.de/>, a German wax refinery. Their Carnauba wax is only available in flake or powder form but it delivers the absolute highest gloss level I have ever achieved with solid Carnauba!

To use the wax, I gently melt it in the microwave and cast it into bars. When the bars are cooled, I use a thin trim saw to cut my wedges. All of the wax shavings are saved and melted into additional bars. In addition, at some point, the wedges will become too small to easily handle. These get

*See Wax - Continued on page 3*

**Wax** - Continued from page 2

tossed into the recycle bag and are also melted to form additional bars.

**Endnotes:**

(1) Safety cloth is a special paper cloth that is made to tear away, before it gets caught. Ordinary paper towels will work just fine but, do *not* get the cheap, cheesy ones. Get a Brawny® or equivalent paper towel. You will get a much better gloss when using a high-quality paper towel, than an el-cheapo.

(2) Burnishing wax is simply wax that has a cutting compound incorporated in it, like Tripoli or other compounds. The wax is used to smooth and perfect the surface prior to application of any finish. If you sand to 600 grit metric and use a burnishing wax, you will end up with a 1,000 to 1,200 grit metric surface.

Production turners (like myself), love these products because they save time and provide a superior surface that enhances the chatoyance of the timber. Two products I use and recommend are Arbortech Burnishing Wax and U-Beaut's EEE-Ultra Shine, both Aussie products available in US.

Good luck and best wishes in all of your turning endeavors! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

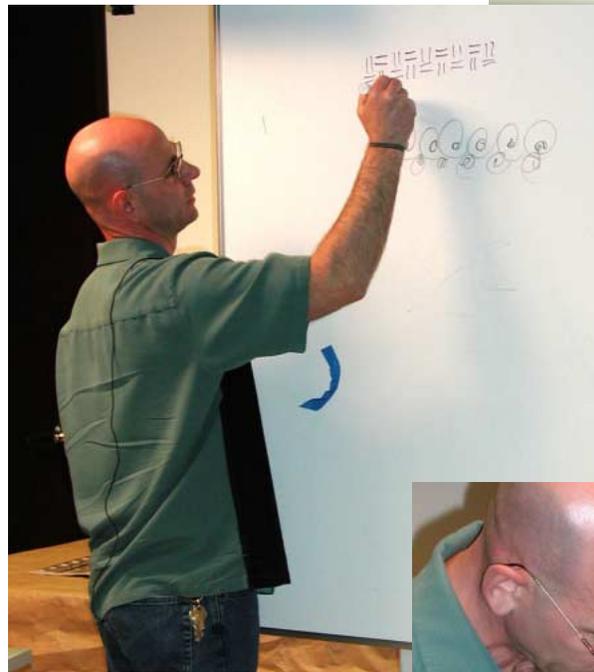
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*Steven D. Russell is a professional studio woodturner, writer, teacher and demonstrator. He is the author of two internationally popular electronic books on woodturning and three DVD videos. His studio Eurowood Werks, is located in The Woodlands, Texas, and specializes in production bowls, platters and hollow forms with unique visual and tactile treatments. His work frequently incorporates inlaid semiprecious and precious gemstones, as well as precious metals. Steven may be contacted via email at <steverussell@houston.rr.com>.*

*Editor's note: If you've watched the on-stage turning demos at the Portland Woodworking Show the last few years, you've seen Steven and heard just a snippet of his vast turning knowledge.*

## Many thanks to Doug Brown

for his very informative presentation about surface decoration during the March meeting. He spoke about the influences in nature and the world around us for inspiring his design elements. Doug also covered how decorative burning and coloring can affect not only the overall artistic presentation of the piece but how the techniques can impact the wood itself. As the meeting wrapped up, Doug finished a bottle stopper with a bit of burning and coloring, which he generously donated to the chapter's evening raffle.



*Top of page: Doug reviews his thoughts and efforts in making the beautiful Maple bowl he gave away at the Christmas party.*

*Middle: Doug illustrates a few of the design elements which can be derived from all sorts of patterns around us.*

*Bottom: Doug accenting the burned designs on a bottle stopper with an art marker.*



## Burchard Demo Update

We still have about 10 spots available for the Friday demonstration and 2 spots available for the Saturday hands-on demo. Christian has agreed to do a critique session on both days and has invited all who plan on attending to bring some of their work, finished or not, and he will discuss design, form, lines and all of the other features that will help you turn a nicer piece. Remember that lunch will be provided on both days, call Fred Kline, (503) 234-8515 during the day or (503) 257-6405 in the evenings, to reserve a spot today.

### *Library - Continued from page 1*

precision of a surgeon. Six separate tales unfold before your eyes – each with several points, counterpoints, and a story line that just keeps twisting and turning. In the end each foe is defeated and our hero rescues the beautiful figure of curves from jaws of destruction. You won't hear any "catch phrases" (like \$#!~ or @\*&! ) as he guides the bevel across the surface without any dig-ins or tear-outs. The subsequent instructional video on "Tool Sharpening for Results" is a classic tale of how-done-it where Michael O'Donnell grinds and hones his razor sharp wit to defeat the evil forces and bring balance to the universe.

"Turning Green Wood" is two videos in one. Six turning projects are covered, both cross-grained and end-grained, but all green, fresh-cut wood. Then six sharpening segments provide details such as tool use, bevel angles, modifications to standard skew and parting tools. Each segment is augmented with turning examples using the sharpened tool in the correct manner. Running time is 108 minutes or 160 minutes if you fall asleep in the middle and have to watch it over. Note to self – in the future, review instructional videos before midnight.

Happy turning  
Chris Dix

## April Learn-2-Turn Cancelled

Due to Christian Burchard's hands-on demo Saturday morning at Tom Reiman's shop, the April Learn-2-Turn will have to be cancelled.

We hope to schedule one more Learn-2-Turn get-together for May 6<sup>th</sup> with the focus on hollowing. Basic turning techniques and tool control skills are the subjects of the day but the group will decide the direction of

the sessions. The atmosphere will be a very relaxed, social, hands-on-the-lathe couple of hours to share, learn and get to know fellow members a bit better. *Everyone* is invited to attend no matter how long you've been a Northwest member. After the May L-2-T, we are planning a break in the program through the summer and will then restart these sessions in September.

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## A Class with Allan Batty - Hosted by Willamette Valley Woodturners

After teaching at Craft Supplies in Provo, Allan Batty will be at Nick Stagg's, shop in Independence, Oregon, on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup> to conduct a three day class. Many of you know Allan, but for those who don't, he's a world renowned, time-served turner. Allan ran a very successful woodturning business for many years, between teaching and demonstrating across the globe. He has many talents: box turning; bowls; spindles; master skew handler; and more. He's also one of the few turners who has kept the craft of thread chasing by hand alive.

If you are interested in learning hands-on with a Master, this is an opportunity not to be missed. He's had a lifetime of experience and is glad to share it along with leg-pulling and humor.

The tuition is \$300 and the class size is limited to six people. We will require a \$150 deposit to secure your space. This will be nonrefundable unless you can find someone to replace you. The class will fill quickly so don't delay.

For further information, you can reach Nick Stagg at either of the following:  
<ukstagg@teleport.com>



*A sampling of the Show'n'Tell items presented at the March meeting.*

# Notable Trees of Oregon

## The Giant Sequoias of the Washington County Courthouse

The majestic trees that grace the grounds of the Washington County Courthouse were planted in 1880 as three-year-old seedlings by pioneer nurseryman, John R. Porter. The Porter family came west to Oregon from Ohio in 1847. John Porter developed an interest in trees and started a nursery on his farm. When word of the California Gold Strike reached Oregon, he rushed there to seek his fortune. On his way to California, he was awe struck by a Sequoia forest in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Not finding the riches he had sought, Porter filled his saddle bags with cones and returned to his nursery in Oregon. Porter cultivated the seeds and planted the seedlings at various sites including the entrance to the Washington County Courthouse. Five trees remain of the original eight that were planted.

The trees are located on the grounds of the Washington County Courthouse, 1st Ave. and Main Street, Hillsboro.

From: [http://www.oregon.com/history/oregon\\_heritage\\_trees\\_portland.cfm](http://www.oregon.com/history/oregon_heritage_trees_portland.cfm)

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## Challenge Schedule for 2006

**April** - Turnings that make music or sound

**May** - Turnings from outer space: something "out of this world"

**June** - Segmented turnings

**July** - Hollow forms

**August** - No challenge due to wood auction

**September** - Lidded boxes; slip fit or threaded

**October** - Jewelry & personal accessories: jewelry, perfume containers, key fobs, etc.

**November** - Christmas ornaments

**December** - No challenge – Christmas party & gift exchange

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## NWWT Membership Benefits

All members are encouraged to participate in the private, web-based forum hosted by NWWT and generously provided by Lloyd Johnson. Share photos and electronic files, discuss turning and related issues, items for sale, etc. Contact the newsletter editor/website guy (Owen) for further information.

A 10% discount is offered to members by Crosscut Hardwoods, Rockler, Woodcraft Supply, and Woodcrafters. Discounts do not apply to power tool or workbench purchases – other

restrictions and discounts may apply.

Member, Lee Parks, offers a 20% discount to fellow NWWT members on all sharpening services through his Lee's Cutting Edge Sharpening Service and Sales. Contact Lee at 503-537-9131.

Members may also purchase "CA" glues, sanding supplies, Anchorseal end-grain sealer and various specialty woods through Northwest's supply sales. Prices are discounted substantially from what the regular retailers charge.

## Turning Tips

Ken Bullock, a bowl turner from Canada, affixes most, if not all, of his 12" to 16" blanks to the lathe using glue-blocks and hot-melt glue. The problem with glue guns is that they don't put out sufficient glue quickly enough, risking a poor bond if it cools prior to bringing the two pieces together. Ken solved this aspect of hot-melt by melting his hot glue in an electric skillet/fryer. One can find these at thrift stores and yard sales for a couple bucks - just drop in a bunch of sticks and let 'em melt. Once the glue is melted, dip the end of one of the pieces of the wood in the pool of hot glue and stick it to the other piece. Allow it to cool and off you go. The advantages of this method are that: it applies a lot of glue all at once as opposed to running the risk of the first line you run out of the glue gun cooling before the last line is completed; and it completely covers the surfaces with an even coating.



*Tom Reiman displayed some recent examples of his segmented turnings for the Show'n'Tell.*

## Classified Ads

**Guidelines for Classified Ads:** If you sell or find your item, please notify the editor. Ads will only run for 3 (three) consecutive months. Please submit your ad to the editor by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Editor makes no apologies or guarantees for spelling or grammatical errors. All woodworking items, for sale or wanted, are welcome.

**Glaser V-15 gouge**, 5/8" size, sharpended only 2 or 3 times, still looks like new. Paid 159.00 last summer –would think 100.00 should interest someone. **Contact Russ Coker, 503-675-6680** (2/06)

**Wanted: Electric motor**, 115VAC, 1HP, 1725rpm, 5/8 shaft. **Contact John M Lamb, 503-615-8283, <johnlamb@easystreet.com>** (3/06)

**Estate Items:** My wood turning friend, mentor, and past president of Willamette Valley Woodturners, Keith Wood, died last fall. His widow has asked me to liquidate his shop tools. The major ones are listed below. The tools are located in McMinnville, OR. I can email pictures on request. **Contact Doug Smith, <dsmith@onlinemac.com> 503-472-5616** (3/06)

Tools remaining for sale as of 04-01-06:

1. **VicMarc VL 300 Lathe**, 1997, 24" swing, 50" between centers, 1 1/4" spindle, 4 tool rests, 5" VicMarc chuck, 4" VicMarc chuck. Lathe purchased through Craft Supplies, USA - \$2500.00
2. **DeWalt 12" Planer**, DW733 - \$230.00
3. **Craftsman 6" Joiner**, Model 113.20680, SN 8.129.000.38, with stand - \$195.00
4. **ShopSmith Model 10ER**, SN69570 (elderly) - Offer?
5. **Craftsman 6" Grinder**, Model 115.19500, Mfg #7561 - \$30.00
6. **Bench Dog Router Cabinet and Router** - \$200.00
7. **Jet 16" Drill Press**, floor model, Model jdp-17MF, SN0090747 - \$250.00

**Pen blanks & wood grab boxes for sale. Contact Don Woodward, <woodward@spiritone.com>** (3/06)  
**1930s Delta Lathe**, 12" swing, 36" between centers, complete with motor and cast iron stand. **Contact Fred Vogele, 503-254-8258** (3/06)

## Editor's Note:

Submissions to the newsletter are due by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Articles, tips, web links, classified ads, or other items pertaining to woodturning are welcome.

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*A few of the homemade tools and handles vying for the March Challenge.*

