Northwest Woodturners

Volume 10 Issue 1 **January 2006**

Northwest Woodturners meets on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00PM. See website for detailed info.

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Tom Reiman
503-982-5446

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Walt Brown
Jerry Keller
Ed Schneider

Librarian:
Chris Dix

Raffle:
Walt Brown

Supplies:
Jerry Keller

Newsletter & Web:
Owen Lowe
503-538-5325

Turning Challenges:

January:
Pens and Pencils

February:
To be decided

Wood of the Month:

Red Oak

Welcome one and all to Northwest Woodturners for the year 2006

As I look forward to the coming year I am encouraged by the growth of the club. We now have 78 members, and we will continue to promote the "art" of woodturning to the public.

I wish to thank all of those members who have given their time to help promote the club in past years, and I look forward to working with the new Officers and Board in 2006. I would like to encourage all members to get involved with the club, and to help make it better for all.

Remember, this is your chapter of the American Association of Woodturners, and we need your help to make it successful. If you have ideas that will help the club prosper I strongly hope that you bring them to the attention of one of the Officers or Directors.

Happy Turning,
Tom

A Note to the Williams Family

The friends and family that is Northwest Woodturners would like to extend our deepest condolences to David Williams and his family after the death of his son, Loren, in a motorcycle accident.

Loren attended Arizona State University in Tempe. His death on Friday, December 30th, is such a tragic loss at his young age of 22 with so much of his life ahead of him.

Words just seem so inadequate at times like this, but David, please know that the Williams family is in our thoughts and prayers.

Report from the Secretary/ Treasurer

On behalf of all members of Northwest Woodturners, thanks a million to Paul Rasmussen who for years has faithfully attended to our administration and finances. In a world where it is hard to count on anything, its nice to know that you could always count on Paul. I'm taking over at a real good time, though. Nothing's broken, there are 78 active members, there is $3,200 in the bank and the sun will come out tomorrow. Maybe.

And now, for my first big announcement...

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Learn-to-Turn Get-Togethers

Beginning in January, NWWT will begin a new once-a-month program to assist turners with developing their skills in conjunction with offering an opportunity for new members to get acquainted with a small group of regulars. This informal get-together will usually take place at Chemwest, at 9:30AM, on the Saturday following the regular meeting.

Basic turning techniques and tool control skills will be the subjects of the day, but the group will decide the actual 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. The first Saturday, January 7th, will start off with looking at spindle turning. Bowl turning, hollow vessels, etc., will be the jumping off subjects for the months to follow.

Everyone is invited to attend no matter how long they've been a Northwest member, so bring your turning tools, coffee, perhaps a couple chunks of wood, and a few bucks for lunch and let's see what happens!

Measuring Thickness

by Bill Nelson - The Glendale Woodturners Guild

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There are many reasons for measuring the wall thickness of your turned objects. Probably the most important is to achieve a uniform wall thickness in the entire object. The esthetics of having a turning with uniform walls just makes for a nicer and more artistic object. If someone picks up your turning and can tell that the walls are not even they may get a bad impression of your turning even if it looks good from casual viewing. If your turning has very thin walls and hence lightness, you also get a “Wow” factor from people who will want to know how you did it. Having a uniform wall also makes the object stronger by not having thin spots where you may get a crack. An open form such as a bowl will be relatively easy to check the walls whereas a hollow form may have a small opening and it could be hard to tell if the wall is the same. Hopefully this paper will give you an idea of the many ways that you can achieve uniform wall thickness on all your turning projects. Besides it’s just the *right thing to do*. I have listed many ways of measuring your turnings with the advantages and disadvantages noted. These techniques have been arranged from what I feel is the most basic to the most advanced.

Your Fingers

This is the most basic and primitive of your measuring tools. You can tell right away if you have a problem if you can get your fingers in to do some feeling. Very, very small differences in wall thickness can be easily felt. This is where your fingers do their best work, feeling for bumps and dips. These dips and bumps, which can’t be easily seen, are easy to feel. One problem with your fingers is you can’t tell how thick an object is. You may be able to guess but it’s very hard to tell the difference between 3/8" and 1/4" with only your fingers. The other problem is you have a limited reach with your fingers, approximately 2’’ at the most. This may be a limitation for you but it’s also an advantage, as nobody else can feel much further than you can.

Defects in the Wood

Holes in the wood are a natural for seeing how thick or thin your turning is. You may have only one hole or several but this can help you see exactly what the wall thickness is at that point. If you are doing any cutting or carving away of the walls you may be able to drill one or several holes in the wall where you are going to be cutting away material, this will be a easy way to tell your wall thickness. I can think of no disadvantages for this technique.

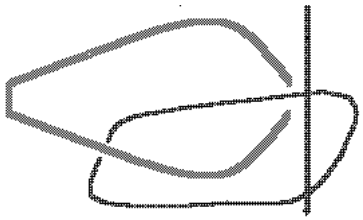
Sound from Tapping on Outside

This is another very basic method of determining wall thickness. When you get the right sound from tapping on the turning you know that the wall thickness is OK. The higher the note the thinner that the turning is. People that are hard of hearing or are wearing hearing protection may not be able to use this technique. The only problem with this technique is it takes practice to find out what the correct sound is. Also different shapes will give different sounds. It is possible that you will ruin some turnings before you can learn this sound.

Sound from Tool

This technique is similar to the one above accept that you do not have to turn off the lathe in order for you to have a good idea of the wall thickness. When the tool is cutting you get a certain sound, as the wall gets thinner the sound will get a higher tone to it. If the sound of the wood turning keeps getting higher you are getting thinner. If the sound gets higher then goes away it means you have gone to far and will have to start over. If you turn the same or similar forms more than once you can learn what the correct sound is and quit while you’re ahead.

Bent Wire (Ellsworth method)



This is a good method for hollow forms but will work on open forms as well. There are many advantages to using a bent wire to check the wall thickness of your work. Almost any shape can be measured by bending the wire to suit. The cost is very low to nonexistent. Welding and brazing rod (1/8" to 3/16") can be purchased very cheaply almost anywhere. Wires can be used over and over, bending them into new shapes for whatever turning you are working on. To use a wire you must bend it to a shape that will fit into your turning, and you must be sure that the two ends of the wire are at right angles to the walls of the work, if not you will get inaccurate measurements. Make the opening between the two ends of the wire a little bigger than the wall thickness. Start by putting a very small amount a pressure on the inside wire and move the wire along inside the turning, if you have a gap between the wire and the wall that stays the same along the whole turning your wall is even. I use the tool rest as a support for the wire, this helps you from putting to much pressure on the wire while measuring. Too much pressure can cause deflection of the tips causing an

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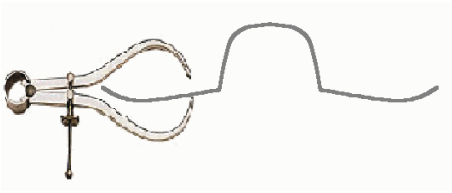
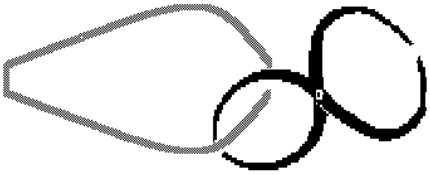
inaccurate gap making it appear that your turning is thinner than it really is. If care is not taken the wire could scratch your work, so round off the ends of the wire and maybe put a rubber coating on the ends to prevent this.

Calipers (regular)



These calipers with matching legs are used to measure walls to a set size. You can adjust the amount of opening at the tip by turning the adjusting screw. This is very useful when the same setting on the calipers can access the entire object. When turning a hat these calipers are the tools of choice. When the object gets bigger your calipers must get bigger also, but the bigger ones are very expensive and hard to find.

Calipers (double ended)

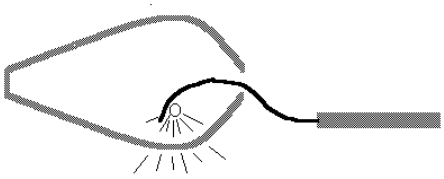


These calipers are normally rounded with matching shapes on both ends. Some have a different shape on each end but work the same way except you can get into more shapes with these. The important thing to remember is that the distance from the pivot to each end must stay the same, if they are different you will get a ratio of the true thickness. To use these calipers you put a leg on each side of the wall and close the tips onto the wall of your turning. By looking at the gap at the other end of the tool you can see how thick the wall is. You can use this type of caliper on open or closed forms with equal ease. The disadvantages of this system are you may need many different sizes and shapes for different turnings.

Calipers (dial)

You can measure the walls of your turning with extreme accuracy with this tool. There are not too many times when you have to measure to thousanths of an inch but when you do this is the right tool. Unless you make some kind of extension for the jaws you are limited to how far you can reach into your turning.

Light



Wood can be translucent when a light is shined on it. Wet wood with a high water content can be very easy to see through (not quite like a window). Light colored woods can also be easy to see through. The dark colored and dense woods will be difficult or impossible to see through using any light system. When turning a bowl a light source placed behind the turning can show you that areas are thicker than others. The light coming through will be darker at the thicker areas. Light bulbs can put out a lot of heat, this can either dry out and crack your turning or cause it to warp while you are still trying to get an even wall thickness. You have to work fast or have a way to keep your turning cool. A small light can also be used inside closed forms. A 12-volt automobile light bulb can be ideal for this purpose. Frank Sudol uses this system to turn very deep vase forms (2' to 3'). With the light attached to your tool inside the turning you can see through the wall to see how even the thickness is. This approach also has the problem of heat, but with the small size of the bulb it's not as intense. You can set up this system for little cost, all you need is a 12 volt bulb, wire, transformer (110 volt to 12 volt), and a electric cord. If you are not electrically savvy get someone to help you set up your system. A non-heat producing light source is fiber optics. J. Paul Fennel uses this system on hollow forms. Light is conducted along a tube containing either glass or plastic fibers. The heat produced at the light source is not transmitted to the end of the fibers so the light is very cool at the tip. The light is also very concentrated and intense giving you an excellent look at the thickness of your turnings walls. The cost of a fiber optic system is a lot more than the light bulb but has many advantages that could offset this added expense. There are some problems with having a light source inside your turning. There are wires and bulbs inside that can get tangled up or you have the fiber optic cord to worry about (not cheap if damaged). Also the chips start building up obscuring the light coming through the wall. You have to stop the lathe and clear out the chips not only so you can see but also to keep the chips from compacting and grabbing your tool. This becomes an added problem because of the extra equipment inside your turning.

Laser

This is a new system that uses a small laser pointer to help you tell how thick the walls on your hollow

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NWWT's Christmas Party 2005

Above: President Tom Reiman opens the party with a review of the great things the chapter has done this year and looks forward to the next.

Above: Chris Dix looks worried now that Jill has a new mallet.

Left: The Chefs Kline catered the delicious dinner and desserts.

Below: Lea Montaire unwraps a beading tool in the gift exchange as Mike Studebaker ponders how he could turn wonderful things with that tool on his new Powermatic.

Above: Teri Reiman "steals" a beautiful bowl made by Doug Brown.

Right: Gotta watch those Reimans - Tom "lifts" wood from David Williams.

Library Holdings Available on MyFamily Website

From the MyFamily front page, click on the **File Cabinet** link so you can select the **Categories** link in the File Cabinet tools banner. In the list you will see **Library Holdings**. Click on this link to open or download a PDF listing of the items in the Library. This initial listing will be replaced and updated with more information after our January meeting. Also I will attempt to post the status (checked out and for how long) on a monthly basis.

Please join me in thanking Owen for his fine service to the club as outgoing librarian. He has made many valuable additions to the collection and I hope to do nearly as well. I sincerely wish each and everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Cheers,
Chris Dix

Northwest Woodturners

***Thickness**: continued from page 3*

form are. The laser must be attached to your tool in such a way for the light to shine down from above. You set the laser beam to shine down near the tip of your tool. The distance between the tool tip and the laser beam will be how thick the wall will be. When you still see the laser beam on your turning you are not yet to the correct thickness, when the laser beam goes off the side of your turning you have reached your preset wall thickness. This system is not expensive, a cheap laser pointer can be bought for about $20. The hard part is arranging a way of holding the laser above your tool tip in a rigid manner to keep the laser beam in one place.

Meeting Demos and Topics

Paul Turner from 3M Corporation will speak at the January meeting. Paul is going to show us the new woodturner's and woodcarver's abrasive packages 3M has just come out with.

February's program will feature John Moe from Renton, Washington. The program will focus on decoration and embellishment.

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 11th, 12th, and 13th 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> or 503 838 4817.

***Sec'y/Treas**: continued from page 1*

IT'S DUES TIME!! The good news is that we've held the line and kept the annual dues at $30. It will be greatly appreciated if you would bring a check to the next meeting or send it to the following address:

Northwest Woodturners
13500 SW Pacific Hwy, #185
Tigard, OR 97223

Membership cards will be given to you at the meeting following receipt of your dues. As in the past, your membership card entitles you to a 10% discount at the local Woodcraft, Rockler and Crosscut Hardwoods stores.

Lloyd Johnson

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, discussion, items for sale, interesting electronic files, etc. Contact the newletter editor/website guy (Owen) for further information.

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

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. Items not pertaining specifically to wood turning are welcome. Please submit your ad to the editor by the 20th of the month. Editor makes no apologies or guarantees for spelling or grammatical errors.

"Old" Craftsman jointer my dad restored into perfect working condition. I'm unable to find a model # but it looks like something built in the 50's or 60's. He even built a custom stand for it. Powered by a Craftsman 1/2 horse motor, via a belt drive. Not sure of fair market value, so willing to take offers. **Contact Terry Schmeiser <schmize@earthlink.net>** (1/06)

Airbrush compressor (very quiet) 1/6 hp, maximum 100 psi. Also Iwata airbrush (HP-C) and a variety of paints and supplies. **$250.00 Contact Paul Rasmussen (503) 246-3067.** (11/05)

Bowl blanks and specialty wood, Roseburg area wood supplier, madrone, myrtle, walnut, chinkopin and others. Large wood chunks and precut bowl blanks; special orders accepted; delivery options available; as are large volumes, bi-monthly trips to Portland normal. **Contact Scott (541) 445-2249 or <email:scottie@mbol.us>.** (11/05)

Editor's Note:

Please contact me by the 20th of every month to submit items for the newsletter. I will gladly accept articles, tips, web links, classified ads, or what have you, pertaining to woodturning.

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Notable Trees of Oregon

The Sitka Spruce, a species new to science at the time of Lewis and Clark, was described in detail by Meriwether Lewis on Tuesday, February 4, 1806:

" *there are several species of fir in this neighborhood which I shall describe as well as my slender botanical skill will enable me... grows to immense size; very commonly 27 feet in the girth, six feet above the surface of the earth, and in several instances we have found them as much as 36 feet in the girth or 12 feet diameter perfectly solid and entire. they frequently rise to the height of 230 feet, and one hundred and twenty or 30 of that height without a limb."*

Modern-day explorers can view a Giant Sitka at Klootchy Creek Park, Oregon. Klootchy Creek Giant is a Sitka Spruce that stands 216 feet tall, measures 56 feet in circumference and has a crown that spreads 93 feet. That makes it the biggest tree in the State of Oregon and the biggest Sitka Spruce in the Country. Its age is estimated to be 750 years old. The Klootchy giant has been named Oregon's first Heritage Tree, a program that recognizes trees for their connection to Oregon History.

From: http://lewisandclarktrail.com

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