

Northwest Woodturners

A Chapter of
The American Association of Woodturners

Volume 11 Issue 6

June 2007

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

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Next Meeting:
June 7th
Jim Hall on Fluting

Turning Challenge:
Rolling Pins



COME ONE! COME ALL! 22 DAYS AND COUNTING...

I hope everyone has signed up to attend the AAW Symposium at the end of the month. I know that \$275 is a lot of money, but if you attend a future symposium you will have to add the cost of transportation, lodging, and meals. This will probably be the *only* time the symposium will come to Portland.

Even if you can't attend the symposium I would encourage everyone to turn a toy for Doernbecher Children's Hospital, this year's "Return to the Community" charity. These toys will be brought in from all around the country and will be donated to Doernbecher. They will give away many of these toys to the children they take care of and will sell some in their gift shop to help raise money. If you don't plan on attending the symposium, but turn a toy that you want to donate, please drop it off at Chemwest before June 28th. I will make sure that it is transported to the symposium.

There will also be a special demonstration by some Japanese artists that will be going on during the symposium. They are shipping a special lathe to the symposium for their demonstrations. It should be very interesting.

In addition, there will be over 50 vendors displaying the latest turning tools, woods, software, and other "delightful" goodies for us to "invest" in.

It should be a fun time, and I'm hoping that everyone can take advantage of this once in a lifetime opportunity.

- Safe Turning, Tom

Notes from V.P. Paul Rasmussen:

I do not have details on Jim Hall's demo other than he will be demonstrating his techniques for fluting.

No meeting in July, wood auction in August. I have not lined up demonstrators for the September or October meetings. Any suggestions?

For November we have Trent Bosch demonstrating as well as a hands on class planned. Trent has taught at Arrowmont School of Arts and Craft, John C. Campbell Folks, Anderson Ranch Arts Center as well as his Trent Bosch Workshops from 2000 to present. He is a skilled demonstrator and is scheduled to demonstrate at the 2007 AAW Symposium.

Much of his work is sculptural and his vessels within vessels. His work has been displayed in numerous exhibits.

In his own words: "My intent as an artist is to express my feelings about nature, my family and natural processes. I work in series or bodies of work, which allows me to explore these issues in depth.

Throughout the creative process I am continually reminded that I have not and will not ever be content. I will continue to create and strive for that body of work that has yet to be conceived."

I am especially pleased that we will have the opportunity to have this artist visit with Northwest Woodturners.

- Paul Rasmussen

Left: Rockler manager, Joe Cornett, presented a thorough overview of finishes and application methods for the May meeting.





Turnings Potpourri

Challenge and Show'n'Tell turnings from the May meeting (clockwise from top left): Banksia pod with a copper liner by Don Simmons; segmented plywood by Don Woodward; a second copper-lined vase by Don Simmons; burl'd hollow form by Mike Meredith; a triangular box by John Wirth; Dan Ottenbacher's pair of bottle stoppers; (clockwise from bottom right) ornament and stand by Kathleen Duncan; Dave Wiggins continues his ornamental turning with this lidded box; Tom Heltzman's natural edge bowl; Pete Ungar's three-peak natural edge bowl; and lastly, Paul Rasmussen's twisted stem goblet in the style of famed British turner, Stuart Mortimer.





Library News Dusting Off the Shelves

After last month's meeting was over I allowed myself to checkout a couple of items from the few that still remained on the library shelves. You Wood Turners of the Northwest do a fantastic job of checking items out and returning them as soon as you are done with them, which for the most part is the next meeting. With such a high level of activity, it came as somewhat of a surprise, when filling out the card for a certain book, that I was the last one to check it out and that was exactly one year ago. What is the title of such a book that sits on the shelf collecting dust? Glad you asked that. "Woodshop Dust Control" by Sandor Nagyszalanczy is a first rate reference on the subject. Most videos or books include some mention of the health hazards associated with wood dust. We even had a meeting devoted to that very subject by our own Mike Meredith. Therefore, it is still a bit of a shocker to see this fine book sitting on the library shelves just collecting dust instead of helping someone with dust collection (cough – sneeze). Not only does Sandor cover all the basics of dust collection but he also has several plans and suggestions of "do it yourself" projects for the budget-minded. The "Shop-Built Air-Filtration Device" was just as inspiring to me a year ago as it is today. My shop is a two-car garage and the door from the garage to the house is not completely air (dust) tight. To make matters worse the furnace blower is a mere 6 feet from the garage door and was built before filters were invented. Thus, the dust created by the occasional sanding (real woodturners don't use no stinkin' sandpaper – the finish from the skew chisel is smooth enough) gets distributed to the whole house. I have almost all the materials needed to complete the filter – just need to do it. The blower and motor cost only \$3 at a garage sale and the pre-filter and pocket-filter were bought at a closeout sale for about \$20. The wiring is not a problem – it is just all the small projects

can be done and over with before the glue dries on the filter housing. Meanwhile the dust continues to collect all over the place. If you have this problem then you should check this book out. That is the dust problem and not my procrastination issue. This book does not offer any self-help for the procrastinators – I have another book for that which is still sitting on a shelf at home under about 1/2 inch of dust.

We do have a new book to add to our shelves. "Beneath the Bark" documents the development of the Utah Woodturning Symposium, which celebrates 25 years of work by more than 140 leading demonstrators from 15 countries. A brief overview of the Utah Woodturning Symposium is followed by a 139 page full color gallery with more than 300 photographs of past and present work, most of which has not been previously published. Work shown ranges from the practical and useful, the practical - which probably won't be used, to the leading edge of the art of woodturning. Included is work by master woodturners who are no longer alive including Ray Allen, Mel Lindquist, Rude Osolnik and Bob Stocksdale. 148 pages. If you are looking for inspiration for projects or examples of unique grain patterns then check this book out at the next meeting.

We are also blessed with a book donation from Jim Hall; "Woodturning Traditional Folk Toys." We will hold this book as reference for the upcoming toy-turning event and then place it in the library for general circulation. Thank you Jim for this generous donation to our shelves.

Happy Turning
– Chris Dix

Turnings from top: Two beautifully segmented bowls by Dan Baker; a fluted Madrone vessel with carved finial by Jim Hall (our June demonstrator); Scott Blackman's burlled hollow vessel with African Blackwood rim and "dots".



have you spotted a turners' tree?

As woodworkers, I believe most of us spot trees that have the potential to yield some very interesting turnings – I know I have. I've got my eye on at least 3 unique trees here in Newberg.

Ken Van Buren approached me at the May meeting to ask about putting a picture (*to the left*) of the tree that caught his eye into the newsletter. He noted, "I think it's a maple because of the spalting and ripples indicating fiddleback type grain. It's located right on the trail to the bridge at Multnomah Falls. Seen by hundreds of people everyday probably."

If anyone else has their eye on an unusual specimen, please don't hesitate to snap a picture of it, note its location and get in touch with the newsletter editor.

July Meeting Reminder

There will be **no** meeting in July due to the closeness of the AAW Symposium and July 4th holiday.

July Baseball Bat Challenge

The baseball bat challenge will be postponed to run alongside the September honey dipper and honey treen challenge. There is no challenge scheduled for August due to the festivities and activities of the annual wood, tool and whatnot auction.

August Wood Auction!

Seal your surplus wood, touchup an unused tool and dust off the wallet prybar; August 2nd marks the Annual BBQ and Auction.

From Steve Russell's *Lathe Talk*...

Q. *I've been enjoying turning some plastic pen blanks lately and I would like to start casting my own polyester resin pen and bottle stopper blanks, but I'm not sure where to purchase everything I need. Is there a one stop shop where I can get the supplies I need? Where do you purchase your casting materials? I live in a rural area in Oregon, so I need to order either by phone, or on the Internet, as there are no suppliers near me. L. D. – Oregon.*

A. Casting your own pen and bottle stopper blanks is lots of fun and it allows you to customize the color and look to suit your personal taste and style. It can also be quite a bit less expensive over the long run, than purchasing plastic blanks from a supplier.

You can get polyester resins, colors and luster powders from **Douglas and Sturgess**

<<http://www.artstuf.com/>> or **Mr. Fiberglass** <<http://www.mrfiberglass.com/>>. Douglas and Sturgess carries lots of liquid and powder colors, as well as a large amount of powder lusters. For the molds you will need, look for **Environmental Tech Resin Molds** at <<http://www.MisterArt.com/>>.

Steve Russell's *Lathe Talk* is a free monthly email newsletter for woodturners that is chock full of woodturning tips and tricks. He offers special discounts for subscribers on his educational video and ebook products; updates on the latest research and testing of tools and products in his studio; and passes on his professional tips and tricks to make woodturning easier and more enjoyable. Subscribe at <<http://www.woodturningvideosplus.com/>>.

Notable Trees of Oregon The Hoover-Minthorn Pear

From 1885 to 1889, the Hoover-Minthorn House, in Newberg, was the boyhood home of Herbert Hoover, the 31st president of the United States. Dr. Henry Minthorn, Hoover's uncle, invited his young nephew to come west from Iowa and become part of his family.

Hoover was eleven years old, and since the death of both of his parents had been living with other relatives.

Pear-butter was made each year at harvest time by the Minthorn ladies. In a letter to a former teacher, Hoover described the scene. *When I arrived in Newberg, Aunt Laura Minthorn and her two daughters, my cousins, were making pear-butter supply for the winter in a washboiler over a fire in the yard. I had never eaten a pear before. I was asked to stir the butter and urged to eat as many pears as I liked. I liked them. But after almost two days of almost exclusive pear diet, I did not eat pears again for years.*

Today the Hoover-Minthorn House is preserved as a museum to Hoover and the period. On the grounds is the winter pear, or winter nelis, planted in 1879 and still producing pears to be feasted upon. \

From: <<http://www.oregontic.com/heritage/docs/trees-newsletter-2005spring.pdf>>.

Fitting Lids and Inserts

There has been some question as to how to properly fit a lid and/or an insert into a hollow vessel. The easiest way that I have found is to turn the vessel and make the hole a bit smaller than it is to be in final form. Make the lid or the insert to just the size that you want; then make the vessel fit the lid.

Trying to make the lid or insert fit the vessel is very difficult, you can not see, you can not hold it up to see if it fits, and it is just a very difficult process. I have found that fitting the vessel to the lid or insert is much the easier. You are fitting pieces that are much smaller so that they are lighter in weight and you can see just what you are doing.

This method often takes two chucks. Once you get the vessel turned and have it properly oriented to the lathe with the hole, you do not want to take it out of the chuck because it is very difficult to re-align it; it can be done, but it is difficult.

The next time you want a well fitting insert or lid you might try this approach.

- Jim Hall

Raffan Hands-on Classes

Richard Raffan will be holding a hands-on class at Nick Stagg's shop in Independence on August 31st through September 4th. This will be over the Labor Day weekend.

Richard Raffan started turning in the mid nineteen seventies in Devon, England. He later emigrated to Australia. Over the years, Richard has made thousands of bowls and lidded boxes in conjunction with traveling all over the world giving classes and demonstrations. He's a world-renowned turner, author and maker of instructional videos. He has also taught at Provo for many years, where his classes are always filled very quickly. This is your chance to stay close to home and learn from a master, so if you're interested, don't delay.

We are having two classes: August 31st and September 1st will be a class on making lidded boxes. September 2nd, 3rd and 4th will be faceplate work, i.e. bowls and platters. The cost is \$135 per day. You are obligated to take both days of the box making class, or all three days of the faceplate class, or all five days if you want to take both classes. A 50% deposit is required to hold your place. All wood will be provided by Doug Smith.

These would be an excellent classes for some of our new members, and for our more experienced turners, a chance to hone their skills. Richard has said he's not going to make the trip too many more times, so sign up while you have the chance; you won't regret it. Spots are filling so if you're interested please contact Nick Stagg at 503 838 4817 or ukstagg@teleport.com.

Learn-2-Turn Re-turns...

Learn-2-Turn is an informal program to assist turners with developing their skills while offering an opportunity for new members to get acquainted in a small group setting.

For June, Learn-2-Turn has been modified a bit from our irregularly scheduled event. This month we will be gathering at Rockler in Beaverton to participate in their all-day turning demo by Pacific Northwest Woodturners Guild and NWWT. We'll be turning toys for Doernbecher Children's Hospital and will incorporate the Learn-2-Turn throughout the day.

Mark your calendar for June 9th, 9:00 AM, at Rockler, in Beaverton. Bring your tools, safety gear, a couple chunks of wood and a cuppa Joe - I'll see if I can pick up some donuts on the way. Come on out to ask, meet and learn while creating something for one of the too-young patients at Doernbechers.



Above: A striking, tall, segmented vase in the May Challenge by Don Woodward.

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 20th of the month. Editor makes no guarantees for spelling or grammatical errors. All woodworking items, for sale or wanted, are welcome.

Denver Ulery custom bowl lathe: 16" short bed, 14" swing, 30" extension - 36" between centers. The diameter of the swing is adjustable, 1.25"x8 tpi spindle, 2 Morse taper. 1.5 hp, 220v, DC motor w/ two-step pulley and rheostat controlled rpm. 2 face plates, wrench, 10" tool rest. Excellent condition, half price! \$1,650.

Contact Patrick Lynch, (503) 557-5526. (4/07)

Wanted: Used router, good condition, must be able to run bits with 1/2" shanks. Not picky about brand. Will be used on router table. **Contact Don Woodward at <woodward@spiritone.com>** (6/07)

Woodcraft® Classes with Bob Tuck

Sharpening Your Lathe Tools

Instructor: Bob Tuck

Thursday, June 14, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Skill Level: None

Tuition: \$65

Beginning Lathe Turning

Instructor: Bob Tuck

Saturday, June 16, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Skill Level: Beginner

Tuition: \$110

Advanced Turning: Hollow Vessels

Instructor: Bob Tuck

Sunday, June 17, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Skill Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Tuition: \$110

Beginning Lathe Turning

Instructor: Bob Tuck

Saturday, July 14, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Skill Level: Beginner

Tuition: \$105

For more information and to register, contact the Tigard Woodcraft store. Call (503) 684-1428 or email <portlandretail@woodcraft.com>.

Rockler® Demos with Chris Nilluka

Turning Event

Saturday, June 9

Rockler invites Pacific Northwest Woodturners Guild and NWWT to come to the store and do demos all day.

Bowl Turning,

Bowl Chucks & Accessories

Saturday, June 23

Instructor: Chris Nilluka

For more information and to register, contact the Beaverton Rockler store.

Call (503) 672-7266 or email <store17@rockler.com>.

Turnings from top: Scott Blackman's triangular lidded bowl; a fine ornamental turning by Dave Wiggins.

Editor's Note:

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

Owen Lowe

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