

Northwest Washington Woodturners Monthly Newsletter

March 2007



Two great meetings this month showcase new techniques and enhance our approach to design.

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ADDITIONAL REMINDER! The April Meeting is the **4th Thursday of the month**, 26 April, instead of the third Thursday. This is due to prior commitments for the lodge during the Tulip Festival

Stuart Mortimer
Spiral Turning



Business:

Meeting Minutes:

Meeting March 15 2007

Jim Christianson was our demonstrator for this meeting. He introduced himself as "the only turner who can't turn" then showed a series of slides of some work, turned and carved, textured and colored that was just wonderful. His presentation of design elements and the development and progression of ideas were clearly and thoughtfully expressed. He also reminded us of a few wonderful truths; "turning is a sharing social experience, design is an important opportunity to grow, critique should be given with a generous heart, do the important stuff, and routine is living death", don't get into a rut, try new things.

After the slide show he turned a small lidded pedestal box using a number of specialty ground gouges and scrapers and gave us a large number of tool ideas and techniques. This was just a great demo with far too many elements and ideas to write down, if you missed it you missed a lot.

At the beginning of the meeting Mr. Christiansen announced that the box he would be turning during the meeting would be given as a prize at adjournment. Bob Bostwick won the pedestal box put together of pieces we voted for. Even put together by committee it was a pretty little thing.

This meeting the dinner was Lasagna, Parmesan Cheese Bread and Green Salad. It would help greatly with planning if I had an idea of how many people were coming for dinner. I wouldn't want anyone to come to the meeting hungry, counting on being able to have dinner and not have enough. Please e-mail me if you will want a meal. The price will still be 6.00 Dumpstadiva@verizon.net.

April Menu Ravioli Alfredo, Fresh Herb Dinner Rolls, Salad etc.

Our next meeting will be April 26th the 4th Thursday of the month.

This will be a mentoring meeting following the format of those previous. Mentoring is, as was expressed in the last newsletter, an opportunity for individuals to experience different aspects of our craft. Meaning – get your hands on some tools and profit from those who donate their time to assist you and me in learning the techniques being presented. Watching is worthwhile; doing is priceless, especially with someone there to help us get it right.

Several topics are scheduled:

Lucinda VanValkenburg will be on hand to show how to make and use jam chucks. Lucinda always has some neat trick up her sleeve to solve those tricky re-chucking problems. All too often we find we've turned ourselves 'into a hole', so to speak and the only way out is to turn a specialty chuck from something out of the scrap bin. Lucinda's a master at this so don't feel shy about asking questions and make some shavings with her there to provide some assistance. It might help if you were to bring along a piece that you're having a problem dealing with.

We will have some of our more astute finishers in the club providing advice on various finishes. Simply wiping on something out of a can is one way to finish a piece but there's a lot of preparation leading up to this point. Learn how to make the grain "pop", get that 'wet look' or just maximize the potential of the chosen wood. As with any mentor session topic there's no set format. This is the place and time to ask questions!

Serious Tools will be on hand with a display of their wares. Your club board does not endorse tool vendors or merchants but the consensus was that providing

**Deadline for submitting
info to the Newsletter:**

**The first of the
month after the last
meeting**

Contact Dennis Shinn with
your submission:

360-854-9909

hdshinn@eskimo.com

!Raffle Wood!

Our wood raffle is an important source of income for the club. Please bring any surplus you can scrounge up but try to limit it to something you would enjoy turning yourself.

Next Meeting

Club Contacts:

Julian Lee - President
360-299-2900
groundwk@earthlink.net

Ron Grant - Vice President
360-658-2621
narg@msn.com

Shirley Butturs - Secretary
360-826-3984
dumpstadiva@verizon.net

them, tool vendors, the opportunity to display and discuss their products would be for the good of the group. Gather the information available and make an informed choice.

Perhaps one of the more interesting subjects will be a demonstration of ornamental turning on a rose engine lathe by Jon Magil. Jon's work was featured in the most recent American Woodturner magazine, the publication of the AAW. This is some incredible stuff that one has to see to believe.

There will be a 30-45 minute 'rotation time' between the topics being discussed.

Julian asked again for more ideas for the mentoring meetings. At the risk of sounding like the proverbial broken record, the people who plan and organize our meetings need input from the membership at large. Those of us who are somewhere between beginner and intermediate stages should be providing a barrage of issues or topics to the board for inclusion in our mentor meetings. Those more advanced members should be looking at the gallery work submitted by 'the rest of us' and recognize topics where we might benefit from the collective expertise of the club. Everyone has something to contribute.

Shirley Butters–Secretary

Announcements

April 21 and 22nd. Quil Ceda Wood Carvers Show, Monroe, Evergreen Fairgrounds Building 600. Saturday 10-6 and Sunday 10-4. Set up will be on Friday and Saturday early. We will have 4 tables.

Our camp out turning get together Mid–May, Deming dates to be determined later.

May 17th meeting Dave Schwitzer will demo coring techniques and turning a natural edge bowl or platter.

May 18th Dave Schwitzer class at Gerrit's's shop, \$90 includes lunch, BYO WOOD. 9am till whenever, turning a natural edge bowl or platter. Remember there are only 8 spots in these classes so sign up early.

July 14th and 15th Hills to Mills, Deming, set up on the 13th and 14th early.

July 19th Meeting Bruce Campbell will demo turning metal on a wood lathe. The last time he did a demo for our meeting his design concepts were very interesting and we gained a lot from that meeting.

July 20th and 21st Classes, \$85 each day. There will be Comprehensive Beginners classes if there is enough interest. If not he will do one day for beginners and one day of lidded boxes.

July 21st 10 to 4, Children's Art Festival. Mt. Vernon , Hillcrest Park

August 4th Bellingham Kids festival 11.00 to 3.00 at Bloedel

Donovan Park . Top turners wanted ! Please sign up with Julian. 360 299 2900.

Woodturners Picnic , sometime this summer

October Meeting will be Christian Bouchard and there will be a two day class. Price to be announced later.

November 2nd to November 4th Arts Alive, La Conner

President's Message:

The Jim Christiansen class was a great fun activity focusing on design . We all built a variety of pedestal boxes that will be displayed and judged at our next meeting gallery. If Jim's demo has sparked your imagination and you wish to enter the President's Challenge, create a pedestal box and bring it to the meeting in April. A prize will be awarded to the judged best entrant.

Stuart Mortimer Demo and Class–I can admit to being a little disappointed that we bring a preeminent world class turner to our club and only 26 members attend! The problem seems to be that we forgot it because it was not on a Thursday! We as a club can only fund these events if they are supported and Stuart's was a wonderful experience for those of us that showed up. Stuart introduced us to a whole new aspect of turning to explore.

Regards;

Julian

Editor's Note

For those who may not be aware of it, the club maintains a well stocked library of books, video tapes and other resource material available for loan to the membership. John Mull, our club librarian would like to inventory the content of our library "stacks" to make the contents easier to browse without leaving through everything. To do so he has requested that any items you may have checked out and no longer need at hand be returned at the next meeting.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Vice President Ron Grant serves as our activity coordinator for the many art shows, street fairs and other opportunities to make our presence known to the general public. These and other calendar events are also maintained on our web site and are periodically noted in the newsletter for your convenience. Please check in frequently for updates and for happenings that may occur outside the publication date of the newsletter:

A partial list of dates of importance for 2007

1. **Quil Ceda Wood Carvers show** (Artistry in Wood) April 21st and 22nd, Monroe Evergreen fair grounds building 600 Saturday 10 - 6 and Sunday 10 - 4. Set up will be on Friday and Saturday morning early. We are registered for four tables. We need to cover this at the meeting on Thurs. coming. I won't be at the meeting so will depend on Julian to announce this one.

2. **Children's art festival** Mt. Vernon Hillcrest park. 10 - 4. July 21st.

3. **Woodturners Camp-out-turning get together.** Demming Mid May. More news later

4. **Hills to Mills, Demming** July 14, 15 with setup on the 13th, and early 14th.

5. **Woodturners picnic** this summer sometime. More news later.

6. **Arts Alive La Conner** 11/02 - 11/04. More news later.

Ron

Dennis Shinn

Gallery Submission:

Name: _____

Wood: _____

Finish: _____

Size (wxh): _____

Comments: _____

Please print the above form to accompany your meeting gallery submission. One form for each item would be appreciated. Thanks!!

Stuart Mortimer Demonstration March 4th, 2007

Ron Wehde

A special meeting was held Sunday night, March 4th at the Hillcrest Park Lodge to feature a demonstration by Stewart Mortimer, a world-renowned wood turner from Hampshire, England.

Stewart started his demonstration with an explanation of the finer points of using a skew. He explained how to use both points and the blade of the skew without getting a catch. It didn't

take long to see that his skill with the skew was well beyond what most of us can do. He turned a spindle with the skew, first making it round and then cutting a series of beads and coves.

He then went on to turn a hollow form with twelve spiral openings around the circumference. He explained how to lay out the guidelines to achieve the number of openings required and the proper pitch to match the size of the form. Once the lines were laid out he gave a brief description of the old method for cutting the spirals and finished up with his present method, which is using an Arbortech grinder. Once again he made it look very easy and you could tell he had done this many times before.



He then turned a goblet with a long spiral stem. And like the hollow form, he made it look very easy by cutting the spiral on the stem free-hand without any guidelines.

He also brought a very impressive display of his work including hollow forms, goblets and candleholders. The evening provided the members a chance to watch a craftsman do what he does best. It provided all of us with the challenge to improve our skills and not be afraid of the skew as part of our repertoire of tools.

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Stuart Mortimer Spiral Turning

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Stuart's spiral turning class; Gerrit Van Ness' shop

photo courtesy of Gerrit Van Ness

The following is from www.grateley.co.uk, Stuart's web site. Please visit his web page for a more comprehensive display of his work

Stuart is on the Register of the Worshipful Company of Turners and is a member of the Association of Woodturners Great Britain as well as the American Association of Woodturners. He is the author of Techniques of Spiral work, and his first video, Wet Turning with a difference is on sale now.

Pedestal Boxes; Design Critique



At our regularly scheduled Thursday club meeting we were treated to a dissertation on design critique by Mr. Jim Christiansen. Using one of his signature forms, the pedestal box design, he used several interchangeable parts to illustrate how even subtle changes in form of the components of a piece can affect the overall integrity of the design.

We're grateful to the Kestrel Creek web site for the following profile from Mr. Christiansen's bio page on that site and his permission to use it along with a few selected images from his gallery, also on the Kestrel Creek site.

For a comprehensive display of Jim's work drop in at:

www.kestrelcreek.com



Like many woodturners, Jim Christiansen chose wood turning after another career. He has described his move as one of the best decision he has ever made. For the past year and a half he has been living his dream to be a full time wood turner. Jim specializes in several types of turnings, "root" vessels, "dinosaur" vessels, and "bug boxes" These pieces are carved, inlaid, textured and sometimes colored to achieve the desired level of emotional impact. His work has won several awards and has appeared in national and international

exhibitions. Jim is also a presenter. Currently he is developing a critique method known as the "Gentle Critique" which is designed to help wood turners become better at utilizing feedback from others.



Jim believes wholeheartedly that the culture of sharing and helping others that is a part of wood turning today needs to be nurtured and preserved. To that end, his shop is always open to others and he works to develop collaborations with other turners and artists.

Jim believes that woodturning has the potential to enhance our spiritual lives. Working productively with others, developing sensitivity to line, form and textures and learning the skills necessary to create what is in your imagination are all ways that lead to living life on a higher plane.

Because Jim believes that all work reflects the "soul" of the person producing it. By working on positive mental conditioning, focused meditation and positive mental imagery, he strives to produce work that evokes deep feelings and personal meanings in the observer.



Participants in Mr. Christiansen's class turned pedestal boxes and increased their awareness of design concepts



Featured Turner

Gerrit Van Ness

Biographical notes copied with permission from www.gerritvanness.com



Gerrit's work can be seen on his web site:

<http://www.gerritvanness.com>.

Photo above courtesy Gerrit's website home page.

Gerrit currently serves as program director for the club. In this capacity he has arranged demonstrations by some of the world's more renowned turners at our meetings. He also generously provides space in his shop for classes held by many of the artists who demonstrate at our meetings.

“From the sublime to the irreverent.”

I live in the small community of Bayview, located in the northwest corner of Washington, approximately 60 miles north of Seattle. Originally from the east coast, I moved to the Pacific Northwest in 1969, shortly after returning from overseas duty in the military.

Born in 1944, I lived 30 miles outside of New York City through my high school years. Syracuse University provided my education in wood products engineering.

My love for constructing things began early in life, doing wood carving, pottery, working in house construction and wooden boat building from age seven or eight through high school. Home construction and design work also continued through college.

Art was a part of family life, with both parents being non-professional artists. A strong appreciation of art was also developed through frequent visits to the numerous museums and galleries in New York City.

As an adult, I revisited my love for creating objects by building fine furniture, crafting jewelry and producing lathe-turned objects.

Skills developed over the years enable me to produce the mixed-

media art objects for which I am noted today. Most of my darker-themed work is related to time spent in combat in Vietnam. Drugs, politics, and pop culture are all targets for my most recent work, and these subjects will undoubtedly provide plenty of subject matter well into the future.



Member's Gallery

A monthly showcase of members' work



Fred Pahler
6" x 5"
Birch
Buffed finish with Inlace accents



Chic Murray
9" x 3" Cinnamon
Danish Oil



Tom Berkley
5" - Walnut Oil/Renaissance Wax



Tom Berkley
8" Canary
Renaissance Wax



Chic Murray
Oahu Koa 6" x 4"
Danish Oil



Chic Murray
Big Island Koa 8" x 1-1/2"
Danish Oil



Tom Berkley
Juniper/Black Walnut
Renaissance Wax



Dave Blair
Maple
Benite & Lt. Brown Briewax



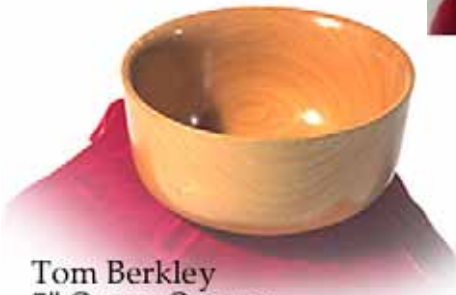
Dick Rice
Ash



East Indian Rosewood
Beeswax

Stabalized Spalted Maple &
African Blackwood
Beeswax

Greg Camrud - Goose Calls



Tom Berkley
5" Osage Orange
Urethane



Black Walnut, Tagua Nut & Gorian
Rubbed lacquer

*Unfortunately I was not able to read
the name on this delightful piece.
Would the author please let me know
at our April meeting so I can give
credit. Thanks.*



Jay Geisel
Madrone
"Air" finish (still Drying)



Tom Berkley
Mara - 6"
Walnut Oil



Meri Dodge
Hickory 10 x 1
Wipe-on Urethane



Mert Dodge
Walnut 11 x 2
Wipe-on Polyurethane



Mark Straight
8" Locust Bowl
Shellac



Mike Jackets
Wild Cherry
Deft



Mike Jackets
Black Walnut, Walnut Oil
"Thanks to Bonnie Klein!"



Tom Berkley
Maple Burl 5"
Beeswax



Fred Pahler
Buffed Oak 9 x 2-1/2
Interlace Inlay



Vern Tator
Madrona Burl 16 x 8
Mix of Walnut Oil, Thinner & Ben Matte



Vern Tator
Ammonia Fumed Locust
6" x 4" - Lacquer



Ron Wehde

Two samples of another possible finish for a turned piece

Masonite painted red with gold & silver leaf and barium sulfite patina

Masonite painted dark blue with copper leaf & silver leaf with a sodium sulfite patina.



Rick Erb
Cherry/Profin



Vern Tator
Holly 8" x 2"
Lacquer



Tom Berkley
Maple Platter 31"
Walnut Oil/Renaissance Wax



Tom Berkley
8" Cherry Bowl
Renaissance Wax



Bob Elkins
Western Paper Birch
4 x 2 Antique Oil
"Fungus Bas Relief"



Tom Berkley
8" Cherry Bowl
Renaissance Wax

Another piece that I failed to identify clearly. Please let me know who you are so you can get your name associated with your work.

Classified

This space is set aside for members to advertise free of charge to sell or purchase Tools, wood, etc. Please submit your ad to Dennis Shinn (hdshinn@eskimo.com) by the last Thursday of the month or submit it to me at the meeting for inclusion in the next months newsletter.

MORE WOODTURNING

The newspaper for turners. Published 10 times a year by Fred Holder. One year: \$30.00; Two years: \$50.00; Three years \$70.00.

More Woodturning online at:

www.fholder.com/woodturning/woodturn.htm

Lots of great information for our browsing pleasure.

More Woodturning

PO Box 2168

Snohomish WA 98291-2168

Phone: 360-668-0976

email: woodturner@fholder.com

Club Discounts Available:

Show your Club Membership card and get 10% off at Rockler's and Crosscut Hardwoods.

For Sale: Nichols custom built bowl lathe. 3HP variable speed. Tailstock, 1-1/4" x 8TPI spindle thread. Turn up to 38" diameter.

\$US4,000.00

Contact Ron Schrimsher:

360-293-8386



A good source of myrtle, maple burl and other figured turning burls

Got a tool or two you no longer need? Need an item related to woodturning (or general shop use)? Contact other members of the club here in the classified.

Nova SP midi chuck with tommy bars, .50mm dovetail jaws, woodworm screw and 1 x 8tpi insert. Currently on sale at Packard for \$US99.95; available for a limited time from Julian Lee for \$US60.00

Julian can be reached at:

360-299-2900

or

groundwk@earthlink.net

Targo Woods

**600 W. Holly Street
Bellingham**

On the grounds of the ReStore.

Local, Bellingham wood source for your projects. Hard woods, Burls, Veneers. Wood to replace a leg on a chair, make a whole dining room set or turn a bowl, you will find it at Targo.

Oby says: [NWWoodturner Club members will get 10% off on their purchases.](#)

Save on gas buy local.

Useful Website Links

Note:

Web links have been provided on our website rather than included in the newsletter. Please visit: www.northwestwashingtonwoodturners.org for club and resource links on the web.