

Northwest Washington Woodturners

Monthly Newsletter

June
2008

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Chapter of AAW



Northwest Washington Woodturners....

meets every third Thursday of the month except April when the meeting is held the fourth Thursday. There is no meeting in December.

We meet at Hillcrest Park Lodge in Mt. Vernon WA. Exit I-5 at Kincaid street, exit 226. Turn east up Kincaid to So. 13th, turn right on 13th. Hillcrest Park is approx. six blocks south on 13th. The lodge is located in the Northwest corner of the parking lot beyond the tennis courts.

Meetings are open to anyone interested in wood turning. All skill levels from beginners to advanced turners are welcome.

Club Contacts:

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Jerry Holmes – Member at Large

Dave Blair – Member at Large

Dennis Shinn – Newsletter

360-854-9909

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President's Message

Hello!

I am continually amazed at our greatest asset, the depth of talent and knowledge within our membership and the generosity of sharing that exists within our woodturning community. When our members share their knowledge we are all greatly rewarded.

However, one common thread seems to have found its way into most turners' minds; most do not believe that their knowledge, experience and abilities are truly worth writing about. Our members come from a wide variety of backgrounds including skilled trades, engineering, business, law, medicine, education, government, art, various media, and other fields. These backgrounds, when combined with woodturning can result in synergies that create new and exciting results. It is this sort of synergy that has advanced both the skills and equipment of our craft. Look through the pages of your favorite woodturning catalog. A significant percentage of the specialized tools were created by woodturners, woodturners like you and me. Take a look through the American Woodturner, the AAW journal. Virtually all of the articles are written by members, woodturners like you and me. Sharing our knowledge is how our skills advance together.

Our guild has many wonderful assets, not the least of which is our

newsletter and website and your help is needed. We have many members who have the knowledge, experience and information to write interesting articles. You are probably one! If you feel that you don't have the ability to write, but have something to say, we will help you team up with someone with writing experience to create an article together. Please send your comments, ideas, tool tips, questions, suggestions and articles to Dennis Shinn (newsletter guru), Jan Garlington (web guru) or give me a call. Sharing our knowledge will help all of us to advance our skills.

Have a great summer!

Bob Doop

Next
Meeting
July 17

!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.

MENTORING NEWS

Our mentoring program is underway! On May 17TH six members gathered at Bob Doop's shop for a day of help and discussion on BOWL TURNING BASICS. The session was led by Bob Doop and Dan Tibbles. Dan and Bob showed us their favored techniques along with answering a myriad of questions from the students. There was also the opportunity for some hands on time trying out suggested techniques. We will repeat this class in the future if there is interest amongst our member. Thanks Dan and Bob!

On June 21st eleven members gathered at Jerry Holmes



Having the big toys comes in handy for chopping up logs!

top turners to participate. We will team them up with experienced turners to teach and coach while



producing tops for the kids. These are fun events!

Future Sawdust Saturdays in the works are a day of small bowl turning on the clubs mini lathes as a follow-up to the bowl turning basics session. This would be an entire day of hands on experience with both green turning and dry turning with experienced bowl turners providing guidance and tips. Also in the planning stage is a session on coring bowl blanks using the various coring setups available. Stay tuned for details.....and be sure to let me know if there is a subject you would like to see covered at a future Sawdust Saturday.

Feel free to email or call if you have any questions or input.

Rick Anderson
360-319-7600
rick@gardenarches.com

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

woodnut@anatechsys.com

Meeting agenda

July 17TH—"Captain" Jack (Wayne) from the Seattle Club will create a bowl out of nothing but a board, a square slab of wood using only a parting tool and bowl gouge. Jack always puts on a good show and illustrates some challenges projects.



shop for a very interesting day of FROM TREE TO LATHE. After a well presented session on chain saw use, maintenance and safety, Jerry discussed the fine art of felling a tree.....followed by a live demonstration on a tree he had "planted" the day before. In the afternoon, Jerry demonstrated use of the chain saw to cut bowl blanks ready for the lathe. At the end of the day, several of our members left with enough wood to turn a few bowls. Thanks Jerry!

Next up, in anticipation of our clubs TOP TURNING days in Mount Vernon and Bellingham, we will be offering mentoring for those who haven't experienced the fun and joy of turning tops for kids. I will be emailing a list soon of several members available for one on one mentoring prior to our top turning days. Then, on the days of top turning we are encouraging new



Jerry demonstrated how to accurately fell a tree by placing this log within less than an inch of the target (the paper cup in the foreground)



Maintenance is a key factor in getting top performance from your chain saw!

Shavings from the editor's floor

I'm extremely gratified to have had such a great response to the request for newsletter input!

Fred Holder has provided a CD full of articles from his *More Woodturning* periodical along with the two page write-up on the June demonstration by Dan Ackerman. Fred has a lot of experience in publishing and editing so we're indeed fortunate to have his participation in our humble newsletter effort.

Thanks, Fred!

Rick Anderson has taken on the stewardship of the *Mentor Committee* with a passion. Not only is he putting together a great program for all levels of members' skill levels, he also is providing newsletter input on the Mentor Program to share with the membership. It's great to have the more in depth coverage of these activities than any one person could provide.

I'd like to bring as much attention as possible to bear on our mentor program that Rick's providing. As Bob mentioned in his *President's Message*, we have a wealth of knowledge within our membership. What Rick is doing is helping to organize the sharing of this information to the general membership. Please take advantage of it!

It might not seem like much but something like Jan's bit on a source for the live center/Jacobs chuck helps everyone with an interest in the kind of thin spindle turning that we saw in the June demonstration. I put mine on order as soon as I saw her email with where it was available. Either Jan or myself will write a short review of it after we've had a chance to try it out.

There are several other people working behind the scenes to help make our club successful and to increase our exposure. Every member of the board is involved with one area of special interest of the other. If you would like to have input to the *New Member Guide* being prepared by Ron Means feel free to contact him at any meeting.

We'll try to publish activities and their dates each month in the newsletter but the club web site is really the best source of information on what's happening. Jan Garlington is providing more up-to-date calendar information so please check it frequently for updates.

Dennis Shinn





hundreds of dollars each. One he showed he said was priced at \$800.00. He mentioned another one that was priced to sell at \$1,500.00.

Basically, Dan uses exotic woods from South America and Africa preferring the Dalbergia Rosewoods, of which the only native American family member is Persimmon. He has a source for very white Holley that he was sworn not to divulge. It was very beautiful wood that the source has a process for very rapid drying to retain the white color. When asked where one could get these hardwoods, the Miles Gilmer Hardwood Supply in Portland, Oregon is his choice.

The demonstration began at 4:00 pm, with a bit of talk and the passing around of several of his partially

Dan Ackerman Demonstration

June 19, 2008

Story & Photos by Fred Holder

On Thursday, June 19, 2008, Dan Ackerman did an excellent demonstration on

how he turns his beautiful little boxes. Dan has been turning for about 25 years. Before that, he and his wife were in Insurance Sales. When he started to turn full time, she became the marketing agent for his products. Initially, he turned a number of specialty gift items. After several years, he said that he began to cringe when she came in with another order of 50 bottle stoppers. He wanted a change. He thought about what he turned and what he really liked to turn. The answer was little boxes.

They now do three big shows each year at major craft events in Boston, Los Angeles, and Pennsylvania.. I didn't write down the names of the events, but they are the largest in the United States. He makes his little boxes special with carving, texturing, etc. and prices them accordingly for

finished boxes. Dan has developed a chuck that mounts on the lathe spindle. It has a machinist screw thread that will fit inserts that you can purchase in most large hardware stores. He then uses hard Eastern Hard Maple to make up glue chucks for these threaded inserts. Each glue chuck has a slight recess in the center so that it only mounts to his threaded chuck with a narrow section close to the outside. He glues the blank to the glue block with Medium CA glue and mounts it onto the lathe. He can mount it and remove it many times and it will always run true unless the wood has warped. This allows him to rough turn a box, let it dry a bit, and then final turn it after it has ceased to move, a very good mounting technique.

Dan's box blanks are in the form of a cube that looks to be 3 to 4 inches on a side. He glues this to one of his glue blocks, mounts it on the lathe, and turns the outside to shape, sands it and finishes it with a coat of lacquer. I believe he said that he finished each box with about 20 coats of Clear Coat Nitro Cellulose lacquer, then polished it with Bailey buffing compound, and applied a coat of Renaissance



...what is the secret to be able to turn the finial so thin?

Micro crystalline (clear) wax that will not show fingerprints.

He began by turning a Holly box on the outside and partially hollowing it. He stopped hollowing early noting that it would be boring for us to watch the slow hollowing process. He did go into detail on how he worked the top part to fit the lid and the African Blackwood inserts that he puts in each box so that the customer feels a very smooth inside and he doesn't have to try to get the hollowed box completely smooth inside.

He then showed us how he turns the African Blackwood inserts that he fits into the boxes and how he does chatter work on the very top rim of the insert as an added decoration item of the box.

After we broke for dinner, served on the site by Shirley Butturs, Dan continued his demonstration at about 6:00 pm with a discussion of finials. He showed us several finials that he had turned that were mounted on the lids of boxes. He then mounted a piece of African Blackwood onto one of his glue blocks and then onto the lathe. The wood appeared to be about 1-1/4" square and about six inches long. He supported it with the tailstock center in the beginning when roughing down to round and down to about 1/2 inch round. At this point he stopped and turned a little tenon on the tailstock end of the blank and removed the drive center from the tailstock and installed a Jacobs Chuck, which



Box Turned in Demo still mounted on fixture.psd

Jan Garlington did a little poking around for a source for the live center Jacobs chuck Dan used in his demonstration. She sends this note:

"Our presenter showed a drill chuck for the tail stock that he had and demoed for us. After getting home and looking at my mail I found that the new Penn State Catalog on page 56 shows the same item. #2 MT Live Drill Chuck is \$34.95. Item number #LDC2MT if you don't have the catalog. (#1 taper is #LDC1MT for the same price.) Hope this helps all of you that liked our presenters way of making really thin finials."

was mounted to a live center mechanism with a little adapter he had had a machinist make for him. He could now put a pulling force on the little finial rather than the normal pushing force of the tailstock.

He then turned the finial fairly small, working from the tailstock toward the headstock so that the most wood was on the driving end of the finial. Interesting enough, he used a bowl gouge with swept back wings to do most of this turning when removing large amounts of wood. He then used a small spindle gouge for doing the detail work. I thought it interesting that he did not use a skew chisel at all for this work.

Dan does intricate carving on the lids using air driven dentist drills with rpm's of 350 to 400 thousand. He does this on both the top and the underside of the lids.

He was asked what is the secret to be able to turn the finial so thin. He finally showed us, using power sanding to gradually reduce the finial to the size desired. He did a beautiful little finial that might have measured 3/16" across the balls he inserted at three locations and the rest of the finial was smaller than 1/16 inch, very small and delicate.

Dan did an excellent demonstration and I can see how he is able to make a living making only special little boxes for the collectors.



Carved lid with finial in holly



Jacobs chuck mounted on a live center/#2 Morse Taper

Member's Gallery

A monthly showcase of members' work



Dave Bayleat
Walnut/Danish
Oil



Mildred Holder
Black Willow
Linseed Oil & Paint Thinner
9 x 2
iSound Bowl i



Janice Garlington
Maple
Linseed Oil
3 x 3



Shirley Butters
From Ben
Carpenter Class



Dave Blair
Alder
Wipe on Poly



Fred Holder
Maple/Lacquer
3 x 3
Branded, Died Black



Chic Murray
Maple Burl
Beeswax 6 x 5

Member's Gallery

cont.



Richard Smeal
Mahogany, Maple, Cherry &
Ebony
Wipe on Poly
10 1/2 x 9 1/2



Vern Tator
Elm
Deft
7 x 5



Hal Swanson
Maple, Walnut, Oak
Kerfis Wood Cream



Coty Howe
Walnut
Waterlox Tung Oil
3 x 9



Jerry Holmes
Cedar
Polyurethane
9 x 14



Dennis Shinn
Spalted Maple, Brass
Lid w/Walnut finial
Shellac & Wax



Bill Rawls
Koa
Tried & True

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 him 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 yr: \$32.00; Two yrs: \$55.00; Three yrs \$75.00.

Electronic version \$25/yr. delivered from More Woodturning online at:

www.morewoodturning.net

Lots of great information for our browsing pleasure.

More Woodturning

PO Box 2168

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email: fred@morewoodturning.net

Club Discounts Available:

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

FOR SALE

BONNIE KLEIN MINIATURE LATHE



DC variable speed drive.

With Threading attachment.

Two additional chucks.

Collet set.

Two faceplates.

Collapsible Stand

Set of miniature tools and much more

If you are interested in miniature turning, this is the lathe designed by one of the best miniature turners, Bonnie Klein. Give this to your self or another interested in miniatures for Christmas.

\$600

Mike Jackets, (360) 293-0530

bluejack@cablerocket.com for pictures.



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.

Dunlap 9" x 32" (bench top) lathe that I have for sale. It has a 1/2 hp motor, live and dead centers, three face plates, and a four jaw wood chuck. The 1725 RPM motor is coupled via (4) step pullies (V-belt) in the head and on the motor. It is also capable of out board turning, and the tail stock is adjustable for off center turning. This lathe is in perfect (like new) condition, and needs a new home now that I have ordered a bigger one that will cause this one be moved out of my small shop.

I am asking \$250 for the the package as described above. I would be willing to bring it to the next club meeting or it can be seen here at my home in Anacortes. Once discovered I'm sure it won't last long though. Also, I have a 1HP 3450 like new motor (110-220 v) that I would take \$50 for. It has a standard mounting base.

If a general E-mailing is in order that would be great.

Dave Balyeat
360-420-4942

Targo Woods

**1104 C Street Bldg. B
Bellingham, WA**

Just three blocks south of the old site.

www.targowoods.com [or]

www.hardwoodstoget.com

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

Tell 'em you read about it in the Northwest Washington Woodturner's newsletter!