

# Northwest Washington Woodturners

Monthly Newsletter

June 2007

## Top Turning!

The June meeting focused primarily on top turning techniques. It's a key roll in our demonstrations at some of the upcoming summer events. Please check the club calendar (on the web site:

([www.northwestwashingtonwoodturners.org](http://www.northwestwashingtonwoodturners.org))

Most of the activities are also mentioned in this newsletter.

Dennis also did somewhat of a demonstration of what's called 'inside out' turning. Sounds mystical until someone shows you the process then it's like deja vu all over again.



*Lucinda VanValkenburg put tools in the hands of onlookers to give them a chance to try turning tops from solid blanks.*



*Ron Grant demonstrated another approach to top turning using disks cut from branch wood and dowels for the spinning stem.*

## Deming Hills to Mills

This has been an annual event since I've been a member of the club (going on four years now). This festival features lots of chainsaw carvers from all over the US plus this year there was a couple from Germany. Evidently chainsaw carving has become quite popular in Europe.

This year the festival was held a week later than usual and conflicted with a number of other activities in the area. Thus the crowd was somewhat smaller than in the past. But — We had a couple of the club lathes set up and there was more than ample opportunity and wood for turning. There are more pictures inside.



Dave Blair provided his customary expertise on sharpening gouges and other turning tools on a grinding wheel.

**Please make note of subjects you would like to have covered in future mentor sessions. There's a lot of expertise in this club; take advantage of it!**

## Club Contacts:

**Julian Lee** - President

360-299-2900

[groundwk@earthlink.net](mailto:groundwk@earthlink.net)

**Ron Grant** - Vice President

360-658-2621

[narg@msn.com](mailto:narg@msn.com)

**Shirley Butturs** - Secretary

360-826-3984

[dumpstativa@verizon.net](mailto:dumpstativa@verizon.net)

**Northwest Washington Woodturners** is a local chapter of the American Association of Woodturners (AAW)

We meet every third Thursday of the month except April with 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 of 13th. The lodge is located the Northwest corner of the parking lot on the far side of the tennis and basketball courts.. 1

**Next Meeting**  
**July 19<sup>th</sup>**

# Business Page:

## Meeting Minutes:

### June 21st Meeting

Announcements

**July 14th and 15th Hills to Mills in Deming.** Some of the club members will be camping and have lathes set up to turn.

**July 19th Meeting, Bruce Campbell** of Vancouver B.C. will demo turning metal on a wood lathe. He is a fine teacher and we will all benefit from his expertise. Don't miss this meeting.

**July 20th and 21st Bruce Campbell classes** at Gerrit's shop, 85. each day. These are always wonderful classes. Friday will be a beginners class and Saturday will be determined by classmembers needs.

**July 21st Saturday,** Kids Art Fair at Hillcrest Park. This is so much fun. The club lathes are set up and we turn tops for kids all day. BYO top blanks; to learn how to make them contact Ron Grant or Julian. Since there will be a class this day also we will need some lathes, if you have a small one and can bring it let Julian know.

**August 4th Polander Park,** Bellingham, Turning Tops

**Each Saturday in August** there will be a turning demonstration at the Depot Gallery in Anacortes for the month long Wood Art exhibit. Volunteer turners needed and wood art for exhibit and sale.

**August 16th** This is out potluck picnic meeting. Bring a favorite dish to share. Terry Tynan from Norristown, Pa. will demo metal spinning on a wood lathe.

**August 17 & 18** Metal Spinning classes by Terry Tynan in Dennis Shinn's shop. Sign up early, these will fill up fast.

**August 25th** Vern Librant camping weekend and open house.

This month was a mentoring meeting and Lucinda did a great demo on turning tops. The top turning is so much fun and such a great way to get people interested in turning when we turn them at the kids art fairs.

Ron Grant gave a demo "precursor to segmented turning" this looks interesting. He will be giving a 2day class which will start with cutting the blanks, glue up and proceed to turning the gorgeous object.

Dennis Shinn gave a demo of "inside out" turning and showed how to make a pretty little Christmas ornament that would make a nice gift.

Dave Blair also gave instruction on sharpening and various grinds.

[Menu for the July meeting is BBQ chicken, potato salad, steamed veggies & green salad.](#)

*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

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## **!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.

# Notes From the President's Desk

## Upcoming Events:

Top Turning at Hillcrest Lodge, Mount Vernon  
Saturday July 21<sup>st</sup> 2007 @ 10.00am  
Contact – Julian Lee – 360 299 2900  
(NB Conflicts with Bruce Campbell class)

Member ..... Lathe? Yes or No  
Ron Grant ..... Yes 2  
John Mull ..... Yes  
Dave Blair ..... Yes  
Mike Jackets ..... Yes  
Mark Straight ..... Yes  
Melanie Mankamyer ..... Yes  
Shirley Butters ..... Yes – no stand  
Paul Anderson ..... Yes  
Lucinda VanValkenburg ..... Yes 2  
Julian Lee ..... Yes

Top Turning at Bloedel Donovan Park, Bellingham  
Saturday August 4<sup>th</sup> 2007 @ 10.00am until 3.00pm  
Contact – Dave Blair – 360 733 3911  
Member ..... Lathe? Yes or No  
Melanie Mankamyer ..... Yes  
Adonia Cairns ..... Yes  
Rick Anderson ..... No  
Bill Rawls ..... Yes  
Julian Lee ..... Yes

## Top Turning

Thanks for all the support for the Mount Vernon Kids Festival. We could do with some additional help for the Bellingham event on August 4<sup>th</sup> (conflicts with Anacortes Arts Fair and Depot Demonstration). Anyone able to support this effort please call me (360 299 2900) or Dave Blair (360 733 3911). These events start at 10.00am so we need to allow for set up (say 9.00am). Lunch and pop is provided at both events by the organizers. For those who have not participated before – these are very rewarding turning experiences.

## Anacortes Depot Exhibition August 2007 – Turning Demonstration every Saturday

	am	pm
August 4 <sup>th</sup> .....	Mark Straight (am or pm)	
	George Way _____	George Way
August 11 _____	Dave Blair _____	Lucinda VanValkenburg
August 18 <sup>th</sup> _____	George Way _____	
August 25 <sup>th</sup> _____	George Way _____	

(NB conflicts with Vern Leibrant open house)

Ron Grant – will participate and will figure out a date or two

## Turned Art for Exhibition provided by:

Julian Lee ..... Set of 3 natural edge bowls  
Ron Scrimsher ..... 20 bowls (natural edge) and 10 large bowls  
Ron Grant  
Dave Blair  
Lucinda VanValkenburg

**We need approximately 100 pieces for display. Our club, together with Pacific Rim Artists, is exhibiting Wood Art at the Depot Gallery during the month of August. Exhibit items can be for sale, with 40% going to the gallery. This is a great way for the club to be publicly recognized, and I would like to encourage as much participation as possible.**

**The event starts on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August with a 6.00pm, no host cocktail party, as part of the Art Walk. All members, spouses and friends are welcome to attend.**

**Note:** Record of assignment sheets will be available at the July meeting. Please see Julian.

**These are to accompany work submitted for the Anacortes Depot Exhibition. We've included a scanned copy (next) page if you'd prefer to print out your own. We should also have a copy available for download off our web site.**



**Editor’s Comments:**

The end of June and so far this July “things” have been no less than hectic for me so I apologize for the newsletter being so tardy this month.

Julian asked that I include credit and include an image from the AAW symposium silent auction — a collaborative piece between Gerrit VanNess and Bin (?) that sold for \$20,000.00. Unfortunately the link to the silent auction list of donors indicates “data collection pending” on the only symposium page I could locate. In any event, congratulations to both Gerrit & Bin.

In addition to its mention at the last meeting and being in the announcements in the newsletter, I’d like to emphasize the need for some work for the exhibit at the Depot Art Center in Anacortes. This runs the entire month of August.

As I mentioned last month, Jim Short has stepped forward to help make with the Featured Turner piece where we try to spotlight some of the more influential club members. I think you’ll agree that Jim has done a superb job. I really appreciate his help and contribution.

Speaking of contribution(s) ... there’s a standing offer for anyone to submit a ‘tip of the month’ and get your name published! Once we overcome the avalanche of response we’ll try to come up with some sort of reward for the best offering. In addition we welcome “letters to the editor” with questions or problems you might have. What better way to spread the collective knowledge we have in our group than to pose problems along with their solutions so everyone gains in the process. Please don’t be shy—this is your club; take advantage of it!

Also in this issue is coverage of the Deming Hills to Mills woodworking and craft show. Unfortunately the show was held a week later than usual and there was just too much else going on this year which reduced the crowds considerably. But this is one show that’s worth attending regardless. As the photos and writeup suggest, it’s more than an arts & craft fair, it’s a genuine social event with club members. Plus a chance to turn to our heart’s content without too much concern about cleanup!

If you’ve never been there, you should visit TargoWoods up in Bellingham. Oby has a fascinating array of all kinds of exotics both for turning blanks and flat work. Please note the address change in his ad on the back of the newsletter. They moved recently.

*Dennis Shinn*

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**Gallery Submission:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Wood:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Finish:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Size (wxh):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Featured Turner



## Vernon Leibrant

Vernon Leibrant, a retired logger and sawyer, seventy years of age, turns wood bowls five days a week when he is home. He taught himself to turn wood 55 years ago and has built a large bowl turning lathe. He and his wife Karen have developed a method to turn 16" to 48" bowls once, dry them, apply finish, and sell them.

Vernon uses locally acquired wood and is particularly fond of the monkey puzzle tree. His stash of wood seems small for a full time

turner. He finishes about 300 pieces a year, and has no shortage of calls to collect wood.

The lathe is a 1000 pound block of concrete with a real 2 hp motor, step pulleys, 2¼" pillow block bearings, a welded on face plate and a freestanding tool rest. On occasion the lathe is loaded into the 94-Dodge minivan and taken to a demonstration. Should Vernon ever want to go into the porchpost business, he has a freestanding tailstock, which is held in place with a comealong.

The morning's turning starts with chainsawed blocks weighing 100 pounds and more. Vernon tosses one up and holds it with his leg





while catching it from the back with lag bolts. Roughing the outside is done with a homemade square 1" scraper on a long heavy metal handle. The form is developed with massive scraping passes. The lathe is much lower than a book would recommend, enabling him to put his whole body into these heavy cuts. A clean simple finished line is quickly produced with a large straight ground gouge and 55 years of experience. The bowl is reversed and brought to finished thickness with the gouge. Vernon then wet sands to 220 grit using a water jug with a drip line and three angle grinders with rosin coated abrasive disks. The intakes are wrapped in plastic to keep water out. They run for such a short time that overheating is not a problem. On a good day three bowls have been sanded by lunch.

The new bowls are left to air dry a day or two and then placed in a plastic bag. Every day the bag is reversed until there is little or no condensation. A stack of bowls might be covered with a sheet of plastic or left to air dry, depending of the weather. A foot is turned using the captured ring method. A slotted board is placed behind the faceplate and the bowl is held on with a plywood ring and bolts. The

bowls are finish sanded to 400 with a 6" random-orbit sander. Profin finish is used for its durability. These bowls generally have a slightly wavy edge which customers seem to prefer.

The Leibrants have been in 30 galleries at one time. They now are in 10 galleries and sell at 10 craft fairs. They both enjoy loading the van with 200 bowls and driving to places like ST. Paul and Salt Lake City.

Karen and Vernon are very generous with their time and knowledge and welcome visitors anytime. They would be particularly pleased if you would come to their open house on August 25 and 26. Come for a couple of hours or stay the weekend, there is plenty of room for campers and tents. Go east on 542 out of Bellingham, just across the Nooksack turn left on Lawrence also Hiway 9, right on Siper Rd., right on Hopewell Rd., left on Goodwin Rd., right on Cabrant Rd., ¼ mile driveway on right, first house. 3807 Cabrant Rd., 360.966.5183.



*Jim Short, contributing editor*  
*Photos by Jim*

A monthly showcase of members' work



**Bob Elkins**

*Birch/Apple pedestal.  
"Platter 'potato chipped' overnight  
so the pedestal is a save"  
Antique oil finish. 5 1/4" tall x 9"  
diameter*



*Western red cedar  
Antique oil finish  
5" tall x 3 1/4" dia.*



*Natural edge vase by **Adonia Lee**.  
Maple burl with "Beesnut" wax finish.  
Beeswax, walnut oil and carnuba wax.  
9" tall x 8" diameter.*



**Dave Blair**

*Sycamore  
Benite (three coats)*



*Wrought iron legs &  
"fire wood" planter:  
**George Way***



*Two 'inside out'  
turned pieces by **Hal  
Sawson**. Cherry  
with wax finish.*



*Natural edge President's Challenge  
entry by **Jerry Holmes**.*



**Dennis Shinn**

*Natural edge "lily" with  
copper wire stamen. Burl  
maple base & maple flower  
with purple heart stem.  
Wax finish. Approx 12" tall.*



*Candle base for 4" cathedral  
candle from burl/quilted maple with  
spun nickel silver insert. Sellac &  
wax finish. 7" dia. x 2 1/2" h.*



*Bird feeder — hand spun roof  
& tray, brass perch and top  
threaded finial. Recycled glass  
jar feed container.*

**Member Gallery (cont.)**



**Jim Short**

*Madrona burl "potato chip" bowl  
.10" x 4". Walnut oil finish.*



*6" x 6" natural edge President's  
challenge entry. Plum w/ walnut  
oil finish*



*"Unknown" wood open  
vessel by **Mark  
Straight**. Did anyone  
identify this for you,  
Mark?*



**Lucinda VanValkenburg**

*Wild cherry/walnut oil*

*Poplar/walnut oil finish.*

*Both of Lucinda's bowls had marvelously delicate pyrographic detail around the rims.*



*Unfinished natural edge white birch bowl from Dave Schweitzer's class. **Winner of the June  
President's challenge***

**Melanie Mankamy**

**Member Gallery (cont.)**



**Mike Young**

*Green maple burl, Profin finish. 9 1/2" x 4"*



*Mike's "entire attempt" at segmented turning.*

*From the bottom: ziricote, canary wood, Koa, tulip wood, lacewood rim. 1" x 3 1/2". Profin finish.*



**Rick Anderson**

*6 1/2" dia x 6" tall natural edge maple. Shellac & walnut oil finish.*



**Paul Anderson**

*Silver poplar carved & sandblasted. 6" x 11"  
Spray lacquer finish.*



*American elm. 5" x 6"  
Sandblasted, carved & spray lacquer finish*



*Segmented vessel by* **Ron Grant**



Keep up the good work, folks. The gallery keeps getting better and better.



Carvers from all over the country and Europe lined the road from the campground to the show hall.

The weather was sultry but it stayed dry & warm for the Hills to Mills show this year. It's a great opportunity to just get to know other members of the club, chat about turning techniques and above all take time off from our other busy activities to just make shavings.

The big club Nova lathe along with one of the Jet minis was set up under the canopies and there was no shortage of wood to turn. Two of Mike Young's nephews spending time with



## Hills to Mills/



Our display setup inside the main hall.

Mike this summer had a great time turning pens. And did a great job of it as well. Along with their new-found turning craft they also churn a great tub of home made ice cream we all shared at one of the evening pot luck dinners.

Perhaps the only thing that detracted from turning were the occasional, well, OK, frequent interruptions for one meal or the other.

*This particular carver's work caught my and felt like sharing it. This fish was indeed carved with a chain saw. The finish was something I'd be proud to have on something I turned!*



Saturday lunch



Potluck dinner Friday evening



Aron & Donny cranking the ice cream freezer.



George Way took this shot and insisted I include it. 11



*Greg & Dennis pondering the wisdom of declassifying Pluto as a planet*

For anyone that might not know, the Deming log show held annually earlier in the spring and the Hills to Mills woodworking show provide support to “busted up loggers” as they call them. Folks who have been injured while working in the logging industry.

Frank Cain and his father do most of the organizing for the Hills to Mills show.



*Clockwise from left: Frank Cain is one of the primary organizers of the show. He's always got some great wood available. Several types of portable sawmills were working slabbing out great table top material. The log above got sawn into 2" slabs while the one below was cut deeper for turning blanks.*



*Aron, foreground and cousin Donny beyond got to spend some quality time with uncl Mike, left background. Julien's wife Jean on the right.*



*What would camping be without an evening campfire. Right, Chef Lee prepares Tube Steak Julien with wife Jean's attentive supervision. Afternoon lounging, left, gathering strength for the party that night.*



## 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.*

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### 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](http://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

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### Club Discounts Available:

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

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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

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

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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.

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## Targo Woods

1104 C Street

Bellingham

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](http://www.northwestwashingtonwoodturners.org) for club and resource links on the web.

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