

Northwest Washington Woodturners



A Local Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

Newsletter for March 2012



Northwest Washington Woodturners....

meets every third Thursday of the month. There is no meeting in December.

We meet at Hillcrest Park Lodge in Mt. Vernon WA. Take Exit I- 5 at Kincaid street, exit 226. Turn east up Kincaid to So 13th St., turn right on 13th St. Hillcrest Park is approx. six blocks south on 13th St. From the south take Exit 225. Turn right on Anderson Rd. Take the first left on Cedardale Rd. Turn right on E. Blackburn Rd. and then left on S. 13th St. 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.

Note: See Page 2 for April meeting.

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Hello!

March was a very busy month for our club with our Al Stirt all day demo and classes followed by the 2 day Wood Fest event in Sedro Woolley in addition to our regular club meeting and Sawdust Saturday. April promises to be a more "normal" month with a fun program in the works followed by another Sawdust Saturday on the 28th.

Our Al Stirt events were a great success with 95 attending the all day demo followed by 2 days of full classes. Al was an excellent demonstrator and teacher and feedback from both members and non-members has been very positive. Our club realized a profit of more than \$1400 on these events which will help fund future projects and activities. A lot of members (and some non-members too) worked hard to make this weekend a success and to those members let's say a big THANK YOU!

Don't forget that our April meeting will NOT be at Hillcrest Lodge.....it will be at the Burlington Community Center. Be sure to check the driving directions elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our March Creative Challenge was another success with many creative projects on display. Thanks once more to all who participated! I hope you will all join in again at the April meeting when the Challenge will be "SPRINGTIME!" Okay, I know it doesn't seem like spring out there, but maybe some creative turning will inspire a change in the weather!

I spent this weekend at Wood Fest in Sedro Woolley helping with our club display and demonstration. For those not familiar with Wood Fest, the event showcases high school woodworking programs in our area. Students from Sedro Woolley, Stanwood and Arlington had work on display. While there was lots of outstanding student woodworking on display, there were very few turned projects. George Way volunteered to serve on the Wood Fest Committee this year and his input along with input from the Northwest Corner Woodworkers has helped improve this event. George will be working with some of the local high school shop programs to introduce and assist them in teaching woodturning. Hopefully George and our club can result in more turned projects next year!

Our Program Chairman, George Way, has a fun night lined up for us at our April meeting with Allan Rumpf and his top collection. Be sure to check out the details elsewhere in the Newsletter. This program should inspire and encourage our top turning projects. Speaking of tops, please don't forget to bring more Tops for Tots.....our box is filling up, but we have more boxes waiting to be filled.....and deserving kids will be excited and thankful when they receive these special treasures at holiday time!

THANKS to Tom Thornton for taking on the task of Coffee Chef! Tom would welcome someone else to learn the coffee routine and alternate the duties. Any volunteers?

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Burlington Community Center on April 19th! Let's turn, turn, turn!

Rick

Program for April

Location: Burlington Community Center

When: Thursday, April 19th, 5:30 Bring your own dinner, 6:30 meeting

Topic: Tops & Yoyos

Presenter: Allan Rumpf from the Seattle Club will be bringing his outstanding collection of tops (about 75) and will discuss the various styles and shapes of spinning tops and yoyos. Allan has accumulated many unique tops and part of the program will be testing them out. This will be an opportunity to expand our knowledge regarding a seemingly simple little item that children love to play with. There might even be a competition for those of us who also like to play with tops.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO BURLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER

1. From I-5, exit at ramp #230 (Hwy 20)
2. Turn RIGHT/EAST at end of exit ramp following signs towards Sedro-Woolley & downtown Burlington.
3. Turn LEFT/NORTH at intersection with S. Burlington Blvd – (There are two left turn lanes; it is most convenient to be in the farthest right lane for your left turn).
4. Follow S. Burlington Blvd to intersection with Fairhaven Avenue, turn RIGHT/EAST.
5. Follow Fairhaven Avenue for approximately 1 mile. You will drive through one stoplight and one stop sign.
6. Turn RIGHT/SOUTH on to Regent Street (which is two blocks after the stop sign).
7. Follow Regent Street to its intersection with Greenleaf Avenue (approximately 2 blocks). The Community Center is located on the east corner of Greenleaf and Regent.
8. Turn LEFT/EAST on to Greenleaf Avenue from Regent. You will see the Center's parking lot to your left (north side of Greenleaf Avenue).

THE CREATIVE CHALLENGE for APRIL!

“SPRINGTIME”

The CREATIVE CHALLENGE for April is “SPRINGTIME!” Will it be about the weather?.....flowers?.....the longer days?.....or??? It’s your choice! Approach the challenge from whatever level you are turning at.....you do NOT need to be an experienced turner to participate. Your work will NOT be critiqued or judged in any way. This is NOT a contest! There WILL BE PRIZE(S).....everyone who participates will have an equal chance in our drawing for Craft Supply Gift Certificates. Your entry can be whatever you want it to be. There are no rules! Crank up your imagination.....we look forward to seeing your next creation! Remember, it’s SPRING-TIME!

SAWDUST SATURDAYS

Sawdust Saturdays have been designed by club volunteers to help new turners develop skills and be introduced to different opportunities in wood turning. Classes are held at Garrett Van Ness’ studio in Bayview. We begin the class about 9:00 am and wrap up about 3:00 pm. Our club has eight mini-lathes available to learn on as well as a basic set of turning tools for each lathe. The next classes will be:

April 28th: Natural Edge bowl, turning some air

May 19th: Boxes, lidded things

June 23rd: Tops

Sign-up sheets will be available at the Thursday meetings. Please sign up early. The fee for classes is \$5.00 to cover the cost of materials and treats. For information on classes contact:

Ed Frank at 360-293-5534 or Mike Young at 360-293-4236.

Woodturner’s Rendezvous

July 16th - 18th Camping and outdoor woodturning Rendezvous. Ellensburg, Rodeo grounds North RV lot [Kittitas Valley Event Center] Join us for an unstructured camping and turning get together. Bring your mini lathe. Come early and stay late. Plan to be entertained by Don Derry on the 17th.

Email Julian Lee julian.s@comcast.net to secure a campsite.

Julian L Lee

360-299-2900

julian.s@comcast.net

Woodturning Symposiums for 2012

Utah Woodturning Symposium--May 17-19, 2012 in Orem, Utah

<http://www.utahwoodturning.com/symposium>

26th Annual AAW Symposium--June 8-10, 2012 in San Jose, California

<http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2012/>

Woodturners of Olympia Fifth Annual Symposium, July 28, 2012 in Lacey, Washington

<http://www.woodturnersofolympia.org>



The art and magic of Al Stirt

A big thank you to our program planners, the club officers and especially all the volunteers who helped make the Al Stirt all day demonstration another Northwest WA. Woodturners club a successful event. Mr. Stirt is one of the foremost contributors to furthering the education and skill of fellow woodturners throughout the US as well as abroad. He began teaching in 1978 and has since been an ongoing participant in many studio workshops and craft schools.

"I consider myself a "bowl maker" more than a wood turner because, although the turning process fascinates me, it is the resulting bowl that commands my interest. From the earliest times bowls have had meanings for people beyond the purely utilitarian. The bowl as vessel has a resonance deep within the human psyche. I have always thought of each piece that I make as a composition utilizing elements of pattern, line, weight, texture and form. Even in the most simple pieces I try to find a harmony of grain and shape. I seek a balance in my work between the dynamic and the serene. By playing with the tension created by combining the circle's perfection with the energy of pattern I am trying to make pieces that have life. I use patterns, whether created by grain structure or organic fluting & carving or repeated geometric shapes, to develop harmony in each of my pieces. I find myself always looking for a new means of expression within the turned form."

*Quoted with permission from:
www.alstirt.com*

To view Mr. Stirt's on line gallery and find out where and when he will be participating in future demonstrations, please visit his web site www.alstirt.com/index.html



Photo: Fred Holder

Al removes a small area of bark for the live center to contact solid wood rather than bark to ensure a good purchase. He also advises removing the point from the center to allow shifting the blank in small increments to achieve a balanced symmetry between sapwood and heartwood

finish 'off the tool' can be improved by spritzing the wood surface with a light mist of water. This serves to soften the grain and provide some lubrication for the tool.

One misconception several turners make in an attempt to get the best grain balance is roughing out the blank parallel to how the tree had been growing. Al suggests turning parallel to the "plane" of the bark to better align the growth rings across the width of the bowl.

At this point we broke for another great lunch provided by Patti Anderson, Juanita Doop, Robbie Shinn and Laura Mathews along with the

Any attempt to condense the entire day into a brief write-up will fail to do justice to the wealth of information and the inspiration provided during the event. Perhaps the key element of the first half of the demonstration dealt with "balancing" the grain pattern in traditional bowl forms. We saw examples of how a simple shift of the blank while roughing out could shift the grain pattern between sap wood and heartwood to product to produce a bilateral symmetry. Comparing the results of symmetrical and not quite symmetrical examples illustrated the improved visual interest of the finished form. During the process of roughing out the large blank pictured at left, Al gave a running commentary on tool grinds, cutting techniques, and other aspects of turning. Tips such as placing a few strips of masking tape across the end grain while finishing off the bottom of a piece mounted on a vacuum chuck to prevent suction through the wood fibers and improve holding power. Surface



Photo: Fred Holder

Wide strips of masking tape help prevent leakage of vacuum suction while holding thin pieces in a vacuum chuck

Al Stirt

cont.

kitchen staff from the church.
Hats off to you!!

The afternoon session of the demo dealt with more sculptural forms including various methods of carving, painting, and dying. Turning one of his signature “square bowls”, Stirt applied several examples of surface treatments using rotary and reciprocating carving tools to produce a variety of patterns. Black gesso and black milk paint are two of his preferred materials for creating the contrast between natural wood and painted surfaces. The photo below shows just a few of the potential textures that can result from combining concentric beads and radial cuts using different carving tools.



Photo: Fred Holder

Al's purpose built rest for marking radial lines on the face of a work piece. Note the stop collar where the post enters the banjo. This makes it easy to set the rest at dead center for any lathe. The broad flat surface provides a level platform on which to ride the pencil.

For future club presentations please consult the activities calendar on our website: nwwwt.org/calendar.htm
If you have some free time on the weekend of Mar.31st, drop by our setup at Woodfest being held in the Sedro-Woolley High School gym.



photo: Melanie Mankamyer

Cutting concentric rings into the surface of his “square” bowl, then using a rotary tool to carve radial lines produces a richly textured random pattern. Stained black with either black gesso or black milk paint provides a dramatic contrast between the natural wood and the painted surface

Al’s visit culminated in two day long class sessions where participants had the opportunity to apply the techniques demonstrated during the Saturday demonstration.



photos: Rick Anderson

The generous layer of shavings on Gerritt’s shop floor is ample evidence of the activity during the Al Stirt class sessions following the all day demonstration.



March Meeting Sharing Tips & Techniques

After our informal no host box dinner president Rick Anderson brought the meeting to order promptly at 6:30.

Once again this year the club will be participating in Woodfest, an annual wood craft show held at the Sedro-Woolley High School gymnasium. Dates for the event are 31 March and 01 April. We will have several club mini lathes set up for demonstration along with sales tables for show & tell and for anyone interested in selling their work. Other club activities are listed on the calendar on the club website:

www.nwwwt.org/calendar.htm

Following reports from the various committees and chair persons, several club members demonstrated a variety of turning techniques and shared tips on making work holding accessories from material from the scrap bin. Laura Mathews, Jim Sebring, Melanie Mankamyer, Rick Anderson and Dave Blair worked individually at mini lathes offering hands on opportunities to try what was being done. These folks and others are among club members who offer one-on-one mentoring to help new members master the fundamentals and intermediate turners take their skills to the next level. If you'd like to avail yourself of their expertise, be sure to check out the mentor list at the membership table at each meeting.

Don't Forget: The April meeting will be at the Burlington Community Center rather than at Hillcrest Park. Guest demonstrator will be Allan Rumpf from the Seattle club. Allan is a "top" top turner. If you think you know what there is to know about turning tops you may be in for a few surprises!

John Gruenwald looks on as Laura Mathews demonstrates use of a set of beading tools.



Being the resourceful gadget junky he is, Jim Sebring is one perineal source for shop made jigs and fixtures.



We've seen a number of Melanie Mankamyer's jewelry pieces in our monthly galleries. Here she shows how to hold and work small pieces.



Texturing end grain using a chatter tool takes a bit of practice. Rick Anderson provided insight on how to use the tool to create a variety of patterns



Chatter made easy: With one quick swipe of the chatter tool Rick adds texture to the end grain. Another brief stroke with a colored pen accents the pattern.

Dave Blair focused on texturing spindle turnings using a number of different tools.



This space is set aside for members to advertise free of charge to sell or purchase tools, wood, etc. Please submit your ad to the Newsletter Editor 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 magazine for turners. Published 10 times a year by Fred Holder.

One year: \$35.00;

Two years: \$70.00;

Three years \$105.00.

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

www.morewoodturning.net Lots of great information for your browsing pleasure.

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Club Discounts Available:

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Membership Information

In accordance with a motion passed by the board in October 2011, we will begin sharing member contact information with the general membership. Starting after the March 15th meeting, all members in good standing will receive a Member Listing by email. We ask that members use this information for club business and activities only and not to share it with nonmembers.

Please review your contact information at the membership table during the March meeting, to verify that it is correct and something you wish to share with the general membership. If you will not be able to attend the meeting, please contact the Membership Committee by email or phone.

If you wish to opt-out of having your contact information shared in this way, please inform the Membership Committee.



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