

# Woodturners of North Texas

A CHAPTER OF THE  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

## January 2009 Program:

### Next Meeting:

Thursday,  
January 29, 2009  
Start Time: 6:30 PM

R. D. Evans Recreational  
Center  
3242 Lackland Rd.  
Fort Worth, TX

### Inside This Issue

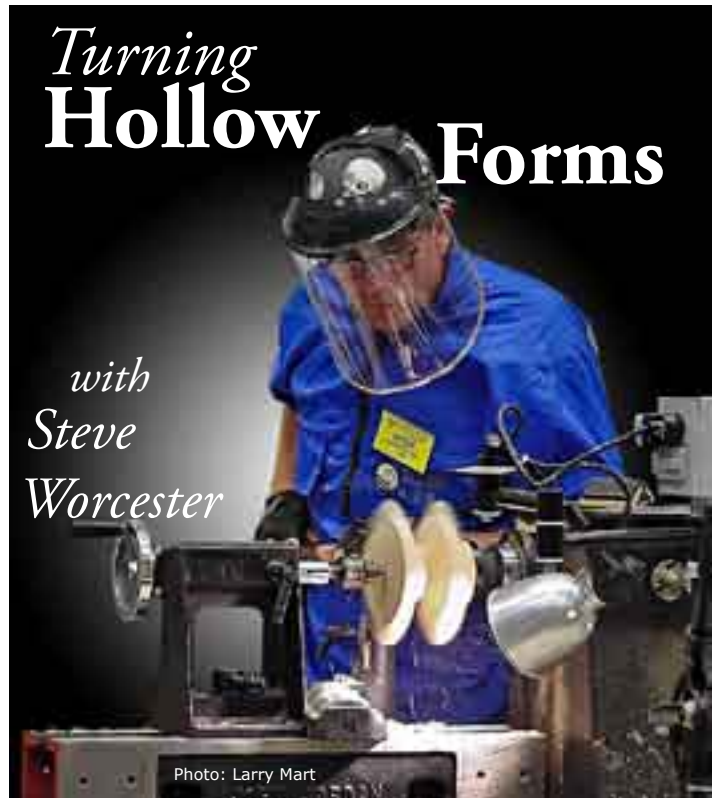
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*Steve Worcester started about twelve years ago like many others, turning pens and actually took a class at Woodcraft and spent \$1200 in the first week.*

*Selling the pens at shows paid for the first lathe and accessories. From there, eventually he started doing faceplate work and migrated towards square turning. His first article on square turning was published in the AAW journal in 1999 and led to a three-part series published in Woodturning Design. Here is Steve's description of his program at the January meeting.*

**So ... how did I get to hollow forms, you ask? Well, it was like this ...**

My son and I attended our first AAW symposium in San Antonio (1997), where we watched David Ellsworth demonstrate. After the program, we walked up to a large crowd standing around him chatting and David parted the crowd to introduce himself to my then twelve year old son. *He stopped everything to introduce himself to him!* The next year I took a class from



David at his house. On a side note, if you ever have the opportunity to take a class from someone of this caliber, you will never regret it. Remember Clay Foster is in your own backyard! As a turner, you will grow leaps and bounds in a short period of time. The learning curve shortens dramatically.

After working with his tools for some time, with mixed results, I started to experiment more. Keep in mind, I am OCD and a computer field engineer by trade [Note: OCD is considered "normal" in engineers -- Editor]. These traits have molded me into a turner

*... continued on page 4*



President's message  
by Dave Marshall

... making  
Good  
Shavings

Dear WNT members,

How time flies. I've known for some time now that this article was due for our January newsletter...well, I've known since our club elections in October. And here I am, up against the deadline. Oh, I have lots of excuses but I guess my top two are that I have been having too much fun turning in the shop lately and secondly, I'm not sure what you all want to hear from me.

So, I have torn myself away from the lathe (now, don't you feel bad?) and decided that this month's musings will be a year-ending/year-beginning hodge-podge of Marshallisms.

First and foremost, a tremendous debt of gratitude and thanks go out to Stormy for his unselfishness for serving faithfully as our Club's president for the last three years. This club is far better off now due to his leadership. With that, none of the past three years would have been successful without the support of volunteers from our club. Volunteers that write our newsletter, coordinate our great turning demos, set-up and tear-down after each meeting, track our accounting books, run the raffle, do the monthly turning critiques, haul the trailer, do gallery photography, run the video camera, plan the annual picnic, keep tabs of the WNT library .... wow. This list is long and it's not even close to being complete. My point is that it takes a lot of effort to keep this club running and it wouldn't run very smoothly without all the great help and expertise that our club members provide. Thank You! Keep up the good work! Our membership ranks are approximately 125 and we have many more activities and functions and tasks that we can use your help with. Yes, this club is all about woodturning, but it is a two-way street. The more each of us gives back to the club, the better our club can function through

better demos, better mentoring days, maintaining low club dues, etc. So let's all get more involved. The more involved we are, the more turning we get to do; the more turning we do, the better we get; the better we get... ahhhh you get the picture.

Next topic: Safety. I'm not a fanatic on safety issues (ask my wife) but there are fundamental things that we all should be aware of while turning. As our club's new, fictional Safety Officer has noted in this newsletter... sharp tools can slice through skin and muscle with great efficiency. Word. Well, dull tools are probably even more dangerous in my book. I don't think there is a much more pleasant experience in the shop than working wood with sharp tools and blades. But you must respect them. Also respect that lathe. Remember that we are spinning at high RPMs and quite often spinning large objects. I do make it a personal habit to stand aside from my workpiece when I turn on my lathe. That habit paid off for me two days ago. The day prior I had a roughed out bowl blank in the chuck. It was not a balanced piece of wood as half of it was fairly clean hardwood while the other half was fairly spalted and punky (I assure you, it was going to be a beautiful bowl). I stopped work for the day and came back the next morning; got ready, put on my eyewear; turned on the lathe and BOOM! The bowl explodes. Luckily I was not standing in front of it. Even still, I took a pretty good hit on my shoulder. It was time for a Safety Timeout. After collecting my bearings and swappin' out the ol' underwear, it was time to cleanup the shop a little. Fifty gallons of wood shavings came off the floor (I told you I had been having a great time turning lately), I changed out that dull bandsaw blade (which I should have done long ago ... I can show you battle scars due to dull bandsaw blades) and generally

... (continued on page 3)

*Making Good Shavings ... continued from page 2*

cleaned up my work area. I want you all to respect your tools so that you have a long and prosperous year at the lathe. Let's make sure that there is zero downtime in our club due to accidents ... now, excuse me while I put on my necktie and head back out to the lathe (just kidding).

Finally, the Club has many exciting things planned the year. First we need to wrap up our club philanthropy, the Empty Bowls project. Our January 29th meeting will be the last club meeting for us to collect these turnings for the Tarrant County Food Bank. The Food Bank has always cherished our donations and this year will be no different. As we have mentioned at previous meetings: GET OUT THERE AND TURN SOME BOWLS for this fantastic community organization. They need your help and it's for a great cause. If you can turn just one bowl ... good! Two bowls ... great! If everyone does just a little bit, the Club, as a whole, does great. In addition to our great monthly meetings and demos, we have two upcoming events that all members are encouraged to take part in. First is a scheduled Mentor Days on March 28. Dr. Gill is coordinating this event for us and if you are interested in being a Mentor on this day, please contact him. We hold these Mentor Days periodically for our club members to get some hands-on experience in areas or on techniques that they're not familiar or comfortable with. There is no charge to participate; there is no need to be shy about signing up. We do this so that we all can learn from each other. Lastly, our spring national demonstrator will be Alan Lacer on April 25-30. We are extremely fortunate for Alan to be able to spend so much time with us and to be able to provide such a varied topic range at all expertise levels. Not only will we have an all-day Saturday demo, Alan will also be here for our monthly club meeting in April! In between those dates, hands-on classes will be offered to our members on a wide range of topics. There will be great instructional opportunities for our new turners as well as for our more proficient turners. Keep tabs on the newsletter and WNT web site for class topics and sign-up lists.

Well, this was a little long-winded for a first Good Shavings article.... I'll try to keep it more concise next month! We'll see you at the next club meeting on January 29.

Good shavings to all,

*Dave*



## ... from the Editor

Please remember to bring any bowls that you have turned for the **Empty Bowls Project** to the January meeting. This will be your last opportunity to turn them in at a regular club meeting. The Empty Bowls Project luncheon will take place on Friday, February 20, 2009 at the Will Rogers Roundup Inn. The food is prepared and donated by several area restaurants.

Safety is an important topic in this month's newsletter. Dave Marshall, our incoming club president, discusses safety in his first "Making Good Shavings" monthly column. Be sure to read it. Meanwhile, our hapless newsletter editor, sensing that it might be a good time to take a look at shop safety, has seen fit to start a new "Safety Corner" column which will appear from time-to-time as he learns the hard way about unsafe practices. If you would like to submit an article for the column, it will be most welcome. Your reward will be fame, but no fortune.

The Holiday Banquet auction raised a grand total of \$5,522.50 -- by far, the most ever. Thanks to all of the generous bidders and our great auctioneer, Ken Phillips.

Thanks very much to the following twenty-nine turners who donated numerous items representing the best of their work for the auction: Walter Barrett, Jacques Blanchard, Bill Boehme, Stormy Boudreaux, Jim Bragdon, Devore Burch, Wayne Clowers, Harv Cox, **Joel Crabbe\***, Fred Denke, Jimmie Gill, James Haynes, John Herber, Rick Hodges, Sandy Jarrell, Kenneth Kilpatrick, John Lauderbaugh, Dave Marshall, Jason Phillips, Sherrie Phillips, Ken Phillips, Matt Rabe, **Larry Roberts\*\***, John Solberg, Jim Tanksley, Max Taylor, **Craig Timmerman\***, **Andi Wolfe\***, and Steve Yauch.

\* Guest demonstrators who donated turnings

\*\* One of Larry Roberts' turnings sold for a WNT Banquet record high of \$1100.

*ERB*

## Turning Hollow Forms ... (continued from page 1)

who looks at everything as a step towards the end (the never ending end). I look at each task methodically as how I would be able to communicate it to someone else as if I were writing an article or demonstrating the technique. OK, so sometimes I have a communication failure.

The evolutions of the tools for hollow turning have come quite a long way. From the invention of the tooling (in modern days anyway) with David Ellsworth's hand held tools to the start of the captive turning with Hugh McKay's articulated tool to the current version of the Jamieson and lower cost captive bars. Several articulated systems have been introduced like the Kobra and the ELBO to name a few. Also, worthy of mention are the arm rest type tool holders from John Jordan, Sorby, which evolved from the Stewart system. These are just the tool holders, then you have the bits and lasers and wall measurement devices.

Keep in mind, these are just the vehicle. Any of those, properly utilized can hollow out a vessel. However, an ugly hollow vessel, no matter how thin the walls are, how beautiful the wood is, is *still ugly*. It doesn't have to be light weight, but it must be visually light, it must have pleasing curves that flow and look intentional. As with all woodturning, everything must look intentional. The cuts must be clean, and cut with a gouge. Sandpaper is not a cutting tool!

But we may be getting ahead of ourselves here. My intent is to demonstrate to you my particular method of hollowing, taught by or influenced by my years of reading, being taught, and experimenting. My style of demonstrating and teaching is very light hearted, it shouldn't be hard, let's not make it that way. I try to put as much humor into the event and teach you how I got there, and have fun. If you don't

have fun and learn from your mistakes you will not progress. Each mistake, each piece you blow the walls through, isn't a mistake, it is a progress towards the end result. Once you hit that result, you perfect it and then some more.

This is how I got to adding glass to my work as well as bleaching, burning, dyes and paints. Sure, the embellished work isn't for everyone; some are purists some are extremists. The lathe to me is just a tool to assist in the end result. What I do is turn a small hemisphere with a rounded top, during the process I make a vacuum form mold, then hollow out the inside. After the form is manipulated (bleached, nothing like a white canvas to start with, air-brushed maybe, dyed, etc., if need be) it is shot with automotive clear coat urethanes, sanded and buffed (the good custom painters don't need to buff, yet another learning curve). The mold is used to give me a plane to form the glass on as it



is filled with high temperature "plaster" and can be used to kiln form the glass at up to 1400 degrees Fahrenheit. (Yet another learning curve! Thanks God for books and online forums to help).

The way I look at the above process, it is just a start, as after each set is finished I think how I could change or improve the next. Different wood, dyes, glass patterns, and outside influences in your everyday life that can alter your path.

Along the way, I was one of the founders of the Dallas Area Woodturners and have been fortunate to demonstrate at venues throughout the US, including two AAW symposiums and the featured Texas turner at SWAT. I am also a huge advocate of the AAW and the administrator of the AAW forums. I hope that you will come by and have some fun with us as we answer questions

you have about hollow turning and the techniques I may show you and if nothing else, expand your mind.

Did I mention that along the way, I started the business and website, <http://www.turningwood.com> which is a provider of premium sanding supplies and StickFast glue? Like other things, helps pay for more wood and glass. [Editor's note: there will sandpaper and glue available for purchase at the meeting.]



*November 2008  
Program  
Photographs*

**“Everything You Always Wanted to Know  
About Turning”**

by Larry Roberts



Larry Roberts began his program by showing in clear simple steps how to set up and then turn a natural edge winged vessel.



The shavings fly as Larry demonstrates how to very quickly develop the shape. He also discussed design criteria to achieve a pleasing shape.



Larry shows that turning “shop critters” is very good practice for developing the basic skills used in woodturning. They are also fun.



Larry shows examples that depict various stages of the turning process.



Here he shows some completed winged bowls.



Larry explains how the interior is turned in progressive steps to minimize vibration and to maximize tool control.

Here are several examples of Larry's natural edge winged bowls.



Larry Roberts provided a very educational and entertaining program. If you saw his program, you now know that you have seen everything that there is to know about woodturning.



## Safety Corner



# “My Job Application for Safety Officer”

by Bill Boehme

I hereby wish to apply for the position of WNT Safety Officer and am submitting an update to my resume to highlight my most recent qualification for the position.

I realize that I am still an amateur with respect to my qualifications, but I am quickly building my repertoire of personal experiences of mishaps and eventually hope to gain peer recognition as an authority on the wrong way to do things. My most recent coup de grâce was performed with the aid of a new 3/4-inch Henry Taylor cryo bowl gouge that I purchased at SWAT (a fine tool, I might add that holds an edge exceedingly well). As an unrelated matter, I was interested in finding out what kind of edge the Tormek wet sharpening system could put on a cryo tool and am very pleased to report that I was able to put an Ellsworth grind on the tool that has the sharpness of a surgical scalpel (the doctor at the Arlington Memorial Emergency Room was able to substantiate this claim for me). But, I am getting ahead of myself -- merely being able to sharpen a tool does not qualify one for the position of Safety Officer -- as we all know, this position requires expertise that you will not find in books or videos (and, for mostly good reasons, I might add).

Most of us have probably heard admonitions against stuff-

ing a bunch of turning tools “pointy edge up” in a five-gallon plastic bucket, but do we really know why this is a bad thing? Probably not! And as a SOIT (Safety Officer In Training), I felt that it was my duty to give this question a more thorough investigation and report my findings. Since all of my tools were too dull to cut wood, I figured that it would not hurt to spend some time sharpening all of them as a part of my investigation into the “five-gallon bucket question”. The most convenient way to carry a large number of dull tools from my shop to the laundry room where I have my Tormek set up is obviously to stuff as many as I can into a five gallon bucket (so far ... so good). Obviously, after they have been sharpened razor sharp on the Tormek, I do not want to stick them “pointy end down” into the bucket and mess up that nice surgically sharp edge, (did I mention that the ER doctor verified the fact that the tool was surgically sharp?) so the logical thing to do is put the tools handle-end-down and let the pointy edges wave around in the air (I am still not sure why Paula sees a problem with this). Since I was turning some small Christmas gift items such as pens on my mini lathe in the garage, I decided that it was wasted effort to haul all of these surgically sharp tools back to the shop and it would make a lot



more sense to just store the bucket-o-surgically-sharp-turning-tools (BOSSTT) right between the mini lathe and my canvas bag chock full of small pen turning “do-dads” and other gadgets. While conducting this investigation, one of the lessons learned is that it

might just be a very good practice to mentally keep track of exactly where this BOSSTT is at any given moment relative to my position.

Grabbing for pencils can be a very dangerous thing. Just trust me ... it’s true. While turning some pens, I needed a pencil to mark some pen blanks before taking them to the bandsaw. Spotting the pencil in the canvas gadget bag, I grabbed for it since I was in a hurry to get this job finished.

(... continued on page 7)

*Safety Corner ... continued from page 6*

There is not much sense in making wasted motions (which only serves to raise the entropy of the universe, I might also add -- it's OK to chuckle, this is a thermodynamics joke that will leave engineers and physicists rolling on the floor), so I just lunged over the BOSSTT and grabbed for the pencil.

Have you ever wondered how the wood feels, when you are making that perfect peeling cut and riding the bevel and the shavings are coming off like butter? I have heard turners say to "cut the wood the way that it wants to be cut", but just perhaps the wood really doesn't want to be cut. I can't remember if I ever did get the pencil because my attention suddenly shifted to how wonderfully that Henry Taylor 3/4 inch cryo bowl gouge with the Ellsworth grind cuts when riding the bevel.

I am happy to report that I have concluded my investigation and concur that a BOSSTT stored "pointy edge up" is probably not the best way to store tools. Why not, you ask? Well, as a SOIT, I have been able to determine that these tools cut wood with the greatest of ease and my flesh is softer than wood. Absent mindedly reaching across the tools, working tired, getting in a hurry, being distracted, stumbling, and perhaps worst of all is getting too comfortable with the tools being stored in that manner ... in conjunction with a, "I haven't had an accident **yet** so everything is fine" mentality are all things that can get us in trouble. However, the gotcha' in that thought process is the word, "yet".

The ER doctor stitched me back together and my hand is still bandaged up for a few more days. Fortunately, there were no cut tendons or nerves. Just a nice peeling cut as the bevel rode on one of the bones on the backside of my hand.

Just remember, as always, trying things like this at home can be dangerous so don't do it -- please leave risky things like this to the Safety Officers -- because they are the pros and know what they are doing!



# "Bring-Back" Drawing Winners

Don't forget that if you were a winner of any item in the November 2008 drawing, you are obligated to bring a replacement item for the January 2009 "Bring Back" drawing. The rules for the "Bring Back" drawing are that winners of a turned item must bring a turned item of their own creation to the next meeting and the winners of any other item must bring something that would be of interest to woodturners. That would include, but is not limited to something that you turned, a tool or jig, wood, book, or magazine. If you have fallen behind in bringing a turned item for the "Bring Back" drawing, now is the time to make up for any items that you owe and please remember to bring a turning to the January meeting.

## NAME

Bill Boehme  
Wayne Ealey  
James Haynes  
Alton Bostick  
Larry Denning  
Fred Denke  
John Lauderbaugh  
Larry Denning  
Bill Collins  
Max Taylor

## TURNED ITEM

Oak Bowl  
Mesquite Goblet  
Pine Bowl  
Tulipwood Bottle Stopper  
Maple Bottle Stopper  
Mahogany Candle Holder  
Willow Bowl  
Maple Bowl  
Ponderosa Pine Bowl  
Pencil Holder

## NAME

Dewayne Hines  
Jim Humphrey  
John Horn  
Jim Tanksley  
Ken Phillips  
Pete Tkacs  
John Solberg  
Terry Tanksley

## NON-TURNED ITEM

Halloween Pen Kit  
Buckeye Burl Pen Blank  
Safety Glasses  
Safety Glasses  
Safety Glasses  
17/64" Drill Bit  
17/64" Drill Bit  
Gabon Ebony Pen Blank



# HOLIDAY BANQUET

2008



Lots of happy folks!



Lots of delicious food and desserts!



Lots of great auction turnings!



The Dennings win yet another prize!



"I don't know what it is, Stormy, but it's unbreakable so you should be OK."



"Let's see, how much should I bid on that beautiful natural edged platter."



Lots of accelerator for Larry Denning



"Stormy, you're bidding against yourself again!"

Natural edged mesquite bowl turned by Larry Roberts received a record high winning bid of \$1100





## Advertisements

### Anchorseal®

The club has purchased a 55-gallon drum of Anchorseal sealant for green wood and it is available to members for \$8.00 per gallon. It can be purchased at club meetings and at other times is being stored at Larry Roberts' place, 6409 Calender in southwest Arlington. Contact James Haynes for payment.

### Powermatic Lathe

Lathe model 3520 \$1826.25, One-way chuck (2 1/2 in. dovetail) with Insert \$225.00, 8" slow speed grinder with stand 67.50, Wolverine jig 67.50, Ellsworth grinding jig 37.50, 3/16" Crown diamond parting tool 32.25, 3/8" Sorby beading parting tool 26.99, 3/8" Sorby bowl gouge 39.75, Sorby bowl scraper 56.25, 1/2" Crown Ellsworth bowl gouge 57.75, 3/4" Sorby skew chisel 26.99, 1/16" Crown parting tool 19.00, 3/4" Crown roughing gouge 63.75, 3/8" Crown spindle gouge 28.50. (total \$2574.98). contact Robert Bender at 214-914-0835.

See the [WNT website ads page](#) for the latest information on what other members have for sale.

Rules for advertisements: Free ads are available only to WNT members. The deadline for submission or cancellation of an ad is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month to be placed in that month's newsletter. Ads will only run for one issue unless notified otherwise. If you wish to continue running an ad for more than one month, please advise the editor, Bill Boehme, by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month. Also, if you decide to cancel an ad, please notify the editor by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.



## Calendar

**NOTE:** The Regular Monthly Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month at the R. D. Evans Recreational Center, 3242 Lackland Rd., Forth Worth, Texas. Board meetings are held at **Schlotsky's Deli**, 6422 Camp Bowie, south of I-30. Check the WNT web site for any updates. All WNT members are invited to attend. If you would like to join the group for dinner, it begins at 6 PM and the business meeting starts at 7 PM.

**January 29** - Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, R. D. Evans Rec. Center, Demonstrator: **Steve Worcester**

**February 3** - WNT Board Meeting

## Board of Directors

**President – Dave Marshall**  
Home phone 817-738-6815  
**Vice President – Jim Tanksley**  
Home Phone 817-453-5100  
**Past President – Stormy Boudreaux**  
Home Phone 817-441-9238  
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Home Phone 817-485-7397  
**Newsletter – Bill Boehme**  
Home Phone 817-275-7473  
**Secretary – Terry Tanksley**  
Home Phone 817-453-5100  
**WNT WEB SITE:**

<http://www.wntx.org>

The Woodturners of North Texas newsletter is published monthly. Inputs are due to the editor by the tenth of each month for inclusion in that month's newsletter.

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