

# Woodturners of North Texas



A Chapter of the  
American Association of Woodturners



## This Month's Program: "Joel Makes a Stand"

by Joel Rubin

### Next Meeting:

July 27, 2006

### Start Time: 6:30 PM

R.D. Evans Recreational Center  
3200 Lackland Rd.  
Fort Worth, TX  
(Mapsco Page 74, Grid J)

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Have you ever been working on a bowl or vase and found out that you did not leave enough wood to finish the base? Have you spent the time to make a decorative foot on a bowl only to realize that when it was sitting on a shelf, you could not see the pretty foot you took so much time to make? Have you ever made the base of a turned piece too narrow and it was unstable or about to fall over? To quote Andy Rooney of "Sixty Minutes": "I know I have!"

How do you make it better? You can forget it. You can put it on top of an old paperback book. You can take a bowl you made for club Bring Back, or

Empty Bowls and turn it upside down and set your piece on top of that. Or you can make a stand for your work of art.

A stand elevates your work so it can be better visualized. You can make a stand that hides and shows off your work. You can make a stand that is decorative and adds to the primary work and enhances it.

I've been turning wood for about four years now. I needed to find a hobby after my wife convinced me to give up skydiving. After 850 jumps and a couple of fractures, she felt I would be selfish if I deprived her of my company by getting another fracture. So I went from jumping to turning. My primary job is a physician specializing in Emergency Medicine. It's always fun to discuss woodworking with a patient while I am repairing his injury. Maybe he will even bring a piece of wood to the ER after he is healed. We turners are always on the lookout for an interesting piece of a tree.



I have given several demos over the past two years, mostly on inside-out turnings. At the July meeting, I will demonstrate how to make a three legged display stand. I will also bring several other pieces to show some variations on what else can be done with a similar technique.



### Instant Gallery Format

The Instant Gallery portion of the meeting has been revised to allow more time for the demonstration program. There are three tables for Instant Gallery items: Critique Items, New Turnings, and Bring Back.

As always, bring all your new turnings to show off and choose one of them for the Critique table. All the turnings will continue to be photographed and posted on our website. One turning per person may be critiqued each meeting. This format will provide for a more thorough critique of individual pieces.

## TURNING TOOLS

The nearly half of our club members are new to wood turning, so this is focused on the newer members. If you are missing out on the excitement of woodturning just because the tools confuse you, read on ... To decide which tools you need, first consider what you intend to make on the lathe. Do you relish the thought of turning a bowl or two for the "Empty Bowl Challenge?" Or are you set on shaping ornate table legs, pepper mills and candle sticks? Maybe both?

Faceplate turnings, such as bowls, call for different tools than spindle work, such as pepper mills and candle sticks. That's because of the wood grain direction. In faceplate turning, the grain runs crosswise to the stock's rotation on the lathe. For spindle turning, it runs lengthwise.

Scrapers, for instance, cut cleanly across the grain – great for faceplate work – but can tear out the surface when used along the grain – not so good for spindle work. By selecting tools for your type of turning, you will avoid lots of frustration. Don't worry if you are not ready to settle on one brand of turning. If you buy tools for both, you won't miss out on anything.

### GOUGES

**Spindle Gouge:** A shallow gouge designed for straight or curved cutting along the grain. It also does a creditable job cutting outside profiles on faceplate turning. Spindle gouges come in sizes from 1/8" to 3/4". The size indicates the diameter of the steel-rod stock from which the gouge is made.

**Roughing Gouge:** Used only for spindle work, the deep, square-shouldered roughing

gouge makes short work of shaving the corners from a turning square to form a cylinder.

You can shape shallow curves on spindle turnings, but the roughing gouge's corners makes it dangerous for faceplate work. Available in 3/4" or 1 1/4" flute widths, this tool comes in handy for spindle turners who routinely start with square stock.

**Bowl Gouge:** Distinguished from the spindle gouge by a deeper flute and a shorter bevel, the bowl gouge is basic equipment for faceplate work. With this one tool, you can rough out a bowl and finish it, both inside and out. It can also take the place of a roughing out gouge for spindle work with some success.

Bowl gouges sizes, from 1/4" to 3/4", are measured from the inside of the flute on one side to the outside of the gouge on the other. The size plus 1/8" equals the diameter of the gouge.

### SKEW CHISELS

**Standard Skew:** The skew chisel, so called because of its cutting edge angles across the end of the blade, handles varied spindle-turning chores. Use the skew for end-grain trimming, shoulder cutting, beading, grooving and surfacing. Wielded properly, a sharp skew planes a nearly perfect surface.

It's that "properly" that escapes a lot of beginning (and not so beginning) turners; the tool has a reputation for being tricky to manipulate. Since the skew isn't often flat against the tool rest, a violent twisting reaction (and, usually, loss of a chunk from the turning) results when work catches the cutting edge. And, without modification, the blade corner doesn't slide smoothly across the tool rest.

**Oval Skew:** The oval cross-section lessens twisting and tear-out by providing broader support for the tool. The rounded blade also slides more easily across the tool rest than the traditional rectangular tool (until you round off the traditional blades lower corners). The oval blade looses the flat edges so useful for making shoulders and marking.

Standard and oval skews are commonly available in blade width sizes from ½" to 1 ¼" in ¼" increments.

## SCRAPERS

For a fine surface on a faceplate turning you can't beat a scraper. With the blade flat against the tool rest, the burr raised by grinding the blunt end shaves the wood. A scraped surface often looks polished.

Use scrapers to even out curves in the turning and erase the ripples left by the gouge. You'll rely less on scrapers as you become more proficient with gouges. You'll find scrapers with round, half-round, Left or right) and dome tips in addition to side-cutting scrapers (the ones with a notch cut out of the side). Sizes range from ½" to 1 ½". Thicker scrapers vibrate and chatter less, leading to a better finished surface.

## PARTING TOOLS

For deep, narrow, straight cuts, count on the parting tool. Commonly used to separate the work piece from the waste material, but it can delineate sections or diameters on your turnings. Grab a parting tool to create decorative grooves and flats, trim end grain, or divide a turning into parts – a box and a lid, for instance.

The diamond-section ranks as the best all-around choice. The shape leaves side clearance that reduces drag and heat build-up.

The fluted parting tool, with a hollow-ground edge on a tapered blade, and a combination beading and parting tools come in handy in special cases. But buy these only in addition to a diamond-section tool, not instead of one.

## The DEAL on STEEL

For many tools, you can choose between carbon steel or high speed steel (HSS). HSS cost more, but offers a distinct advantage: they hold an edge significantly longer. Each company manufacturing tools will try to capture your business with the details of their "special alloy" HSS tools and the hardness of their tools. A Rockwell hardness number (usually in the C60-65 range for turning tools) indicates the steel's penetration resistance. But hardness doesn't necessarily translate into edge-holding ability. HSS should be your first choice for most turning tools. For bowl gouges, scrapers, and parting tools, make it your only choice.

## OKAY, WHAT DO YOU REALLY NEED TO GET STARTED?

Faceplate Turning

Bowl Gouges: ¼" and ½"

Round-nose Scraper: ½"

Diamond-section-Parting tool: 3/16"

Spindle Turning

Roughing Gouge: ¾"

Spindle Gouges ¼", 3/8", and ½"

Combo Turning

Roughing Gouge: ¾"

Bowl Gouges: ¼" and ½"

Spindle Gouges ¼", 3/8", and ½"

Round-nose Scraper: ½"

Skew Chisels: ½" and 1"

Diamond-section-Parting tool: 3/16"

Now, keep your tools sharp and go make some shavings!

Stormy Boudreaux





## Outstanding Vendor Lineup *for* **SWAT XV**

Start saving your money for the vendor showroom at the **SWAT** Symposium in Temple, Texas. Vendor Chairman, Stormy Boudreaux and his team have already signed up a premier list of suppliers of woodturning tools and wood turning blanks, and have several other vendors committed but not yet confirmed. Many of these are old friends and supporters of **SWAT** whom you have dealt with before. Others will be attending **SWAT** for the first time this year. Whether they are a new vendor or one of our old standbys, plan to express your thanks to these folks who help make **SWAT** a successful event for all of us.

- ⇒ Best Wood Tools
- ⇒ CHP International (STARBOND Glues)
- ⇒ Craft Supplies
- ⇒ Elebotool
- ⇒ John Jordan
- ⇒ Robust Tools, LLC

- ⇒ Shadetree Woodcraft
- ⇒ Stubby Lathes
- ⇒ The Cutting Edge
- ⇒ The Sanding Glove
- ⇒ Tropical Turnings
- ⇒ Turning Woods
- ⇒ Unique Mesquite
- ⇒ Woodcraft Supply
- ⇒ Wood Products

## Make your SWAT Lodging Arrangements Now

The **SWAT** Leadership Team advises that we already have more folks pre-registered for the Symposium in Temple than we have ever had this far in advance of the event. That is welcome news and bodes well for a successful Symposium this year. That is the good news. The potential bad news is that Baylor University has a football game in Waco on the same weekend as **SWAT**. Motel rooms are limited in that part of Central Texas. As Temple is only twenty-five miles from Waco, it often absorbs the overflow room demand from Baylor games. If you have not already made your room reservations, it is strongly suggested that you do so at once, to assure that you have a place to stay during the Symposium. A listing of available hotels and motels in Temple, Texas may be found on the **SWAT** website, [www.swaturners.org](http://www.swaturners.org).

## Now Is Time To Register

If you have not registered for the SWAT Symposium, it is time to make your plans and pre-register because the September 29 through October 1 weekend is rapidly approaching.





# The Empty Bowl Challenge: Flying Saucers and Wouff Hongs?

The total number of bowls turned for the Empty Bowls Project has now reached 31 as of the June club meeting according to Randy Johnson, our Head Honcho for the Empty Bowls challenge. The hot summer months

Empty Bowls  
End of June  
Total = 31

may have kept many of us out of our shops while we wait for a bit cooler weather. In the meanwhile, sharpen those bowl gouges and get those turning blanks ready.

So, you ask, what do flying saucers and Wouff Hongs have to do with The Empty Bowl Project?

It was rumored that Jacques Blanchard, one of our members who has turned segmented hollow forms that resemble flying saucers, and his wife Linda Gryfon had been visited by a UFO and abducted by the alien

creatures aboard them. The woodworking tabloids even carried photographs of the alien ship. "Ab-

"I knowed it was a lie the minute I heard it."

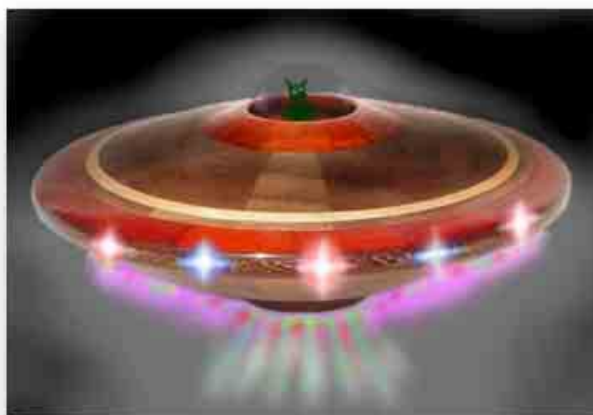
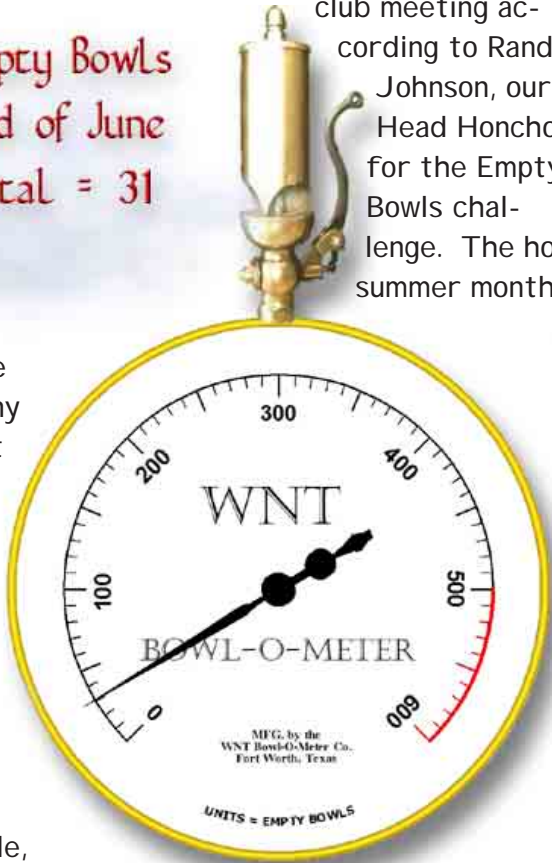
-- *Davy Crockett*

ducted?," replied Jacques, "In the words of Davy Crockett, 'I knowed it was a lie the minute I heard it'. We are both safe and sound. The UFO only came here to spawn. As you may recall, I helped find a home for one of its offspring at the June bring-back raffle. We expect more in the coming months." If you also have any orphaned alien bowls lying around your shop, the Empty Bowls Project reportedly stands ready to adopt them.

"Also," Jacques reports, "the alien creatures wanted to study my advanced designs in UFO technology in order to upgrade their aging UFO fleet."

What are Wouff Hongs? It was 1918 when UFOs visited Ham Radio operators to complain about interference to their communication equipment. The alien creatures presented their most feared weapon, the dreaded Wouff Hong. For those who have seen it, the Wouff Hong has caused noticeable fear. The alien creatures aboard the UFO never did prescribe the exact manner in which the awful instrument was to be used, but it required only a little imagination to surmise how its use might inflict painful punishment.

Jacques reported that the aliens wish for orphan bowl shaped creatures to be adopted by the Empty Bowls Project and they may return to administer Wouff Hong justice if alien orphan bowl creatures go neglected.



## June "Bring-Back" Winners

Here are the names of the June "Bring Back" winners: Dewayne Hines, Kirby Wright(2), Jacques Blanchard(2), John Horn, Wayne Cornelius, Carol Denning, Sharon Ayres, Billy Boehme, Humberto Hernandez. If you were the winner if a turned item in June, please bring back a turning that you have made for the July "Bring Back" drawing.



## Empty Bowls Honor Roll

Here are the current numbers for those who have contributed to the Empty Bowls challenge: Billy Boehme (1), Stormy Boudreaux (1), John Clark (1), Wayne Clowers (3), Chelsea Deakins (2), Fred Denke (5), Jimmie Gill (6), Dan Hudkins (1), John Huber (1½), Randy Johnson (2), Mike Jones (1), Hollis McLane (2), Larry Roberts (1), and Max Taylor (3½).

## 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 is being stored at Larry Roberts' place, 6409 Calender in southwest Arlington. Contact James Haynes for payment.

See WNT website ads page:  
<http://www.wntx.org/ads/ads.html>  
for the latest advertisements.

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 except in September (SWAT Symposium) and November (Thanksgiving Holiday), the meetings are held one week earlier than usual.

### July 27 -

Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, R.D. Evans Rec. Center  
Demonstrator: **Joel Rubin**

### August 1 -

WNT Board meeting -- Location TBA at July meeting. Check the WNT web site for 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.

### August 31 -

Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, R.D. Evans Rec. Center  
Demonstrator: **John Horn**

### September 5 -

WNT Board meeting -- Location TBA at August meeting. Check the WNT web site for 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.

### September 21 -

Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, R.D. Evans Rec. Center  
Demonstrator: **Paul Tiefel**

### October 3 -

WNT Board meeting -- Location TBA at September meeting. Check the WNT web site for 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.

## Board of Directors

### President – Stormy Boudreaux

Home phone 817-441-9238

### Vice President – Dewayne Hines

Home Phone 817-448-8956

### Treasurer - James Haynes

Home Phone 972-223-3171

### Librarian – Dan Hudkins

Home Phone 817-284-3871

### Activities – John Horn

Home Phone 817-485-7397

### Newsletter – Bill Boehme

Home Phone 817-275-7473

### Secretary – Chelsea Deakins

Home Phone 817-498-5455

### 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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