

Woodturners of North Texas



A Chapter of the
American Association of Woodturners



This Month's Program:

Next Meeting:

September 21, 2006

(One week early due to SWAT)

Start Time: 6:30 PM

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

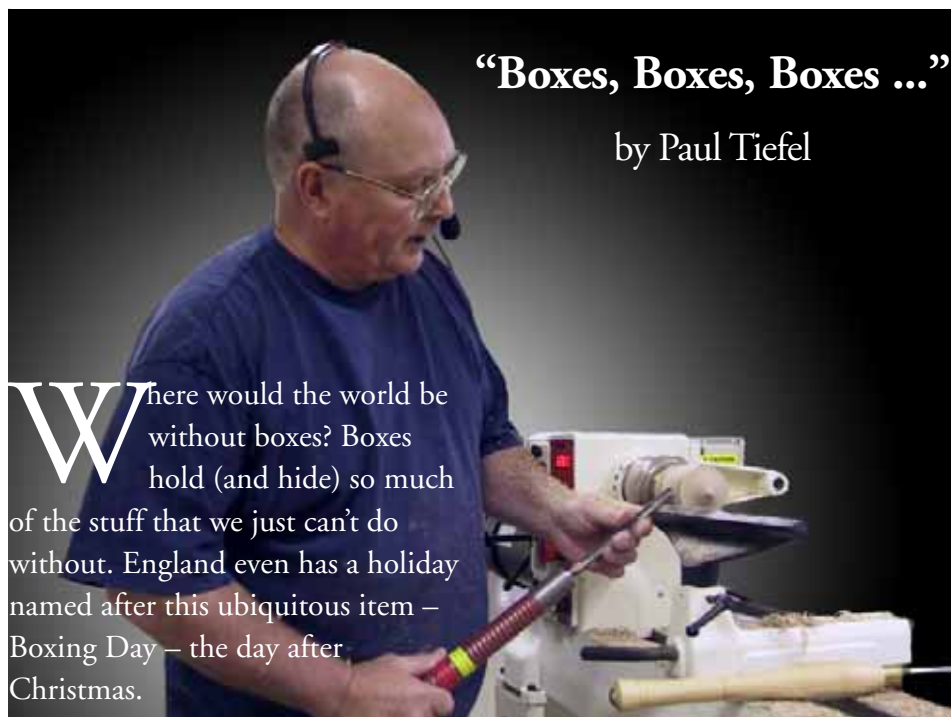
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Instant Gallery Format

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.



Where would the world be without boxes? Boxes hold (and hide) so much of the stuff that we just can't do without. England even has a holiday named after this ubiquitous item – Boxing Day – the day after Christmas.

Turned boxes are some of the most intriguing items that can be produced on the wood lathe. There are endless shapes, sizes, colors and decorations for making boxes. While we can cover only so much in a single demonstration, we will look at some simple box designs and some that are, well – not so simple.

Everyone knows the basic parts of a box and most turners have made a few. But have you ever thought about how many ways there are to fit a box lid? I know of five different ways and I will show examples of each of these and discuss the pros

and cons. Try to think of as many ways as you can to fit a lid, make a list and bring it to the meeting. Let's see how many ways we can think of collectively.

Depending on the clock, I will turn two or three boxes and describe the process required for each. I will also show some ways to add decoration to a box such as the Chatter Tool. The Chatter Tool is simple to use but can provide infinite variations in design and adding a little color really accents the chatter pattern.

(continued on page 5)

Making Good Shavings

One of the joys of turning green wood is having long streamers fly off the lathe. Even very hard woods like Bois d'Arc and Mesquite cut like butter when the wood is freshly cut. One of the best ways to get green wood for turning is with a chainsaw. While chainsaw usage can be intimidating, if you follow safety rules and keep your saw well maintained it can be rewarding in providing great turning stock.

Types of chainsaws: If you can bring the wood to your shop you can use an electric chain saw to cut it to size. These saws tend to be smaller than gas powered models. Gas powered chainsaws use 2-cycle engines that require a mixture of gas and oil. These saws are very efficient and handy to take to a cutting site but tend to pollute the air. Chainsaws of the future will likely include 4-cycle engines to meet EPA clean air requirements. These saws will be heavier with less horsepower but won't require the gas/oil mixture.

Chainsaw safety tips: Use eye protection! Protect your hearing also. Proper clothing and rugged shoes should be worn. Always use a sharp chain and let the chain do the cutting – do not force the saw. Use a saw that is appropriate for the size of log to be cut. Don't try to cut a 20 inch tree with a 10 inch saw. Cut with the bottom of the bar or the top but never the tip. This can cause the saw to kickback at the user. Most saws have an anti-kickback brake that will stop the chain if it kicks back. Some saws also have a metal guard

over the tip to prevent cutting with it. Secure the piece of wood so it doesn't roll while you cut it. Keep your feet away from the cutting path. Never cut into the dirt, it can damage the chain and the grooves in the chain bar.

Chainsaw maintenance: Keep the chain sharp! After 20-30 minutes of cutting, use a round file and guide to re-sharpen each cutter tooth on the chain. The chain also has raker teeth to remove wood chips. Once the chain has been oversharpened the rakers will prevent the cutters from cutting – it's time to get a new chain. Use the proper mixture of 2-cycle oil and gasoline. Mix only the amount you need. The mixture will go stale over time and can ruin your chainsaw. Check and refill the bar oil every time you refill the gas tank. Before starting check the chain brake for proper operation. Set the chain tension so there is a slight amount of slack and the chain moves freely on the bar.

Cutting tips: Cut the wood to the size needed for turning. For bowls use the diameter of the log as a guide to the length. Cut to length then split in two to get 2 square-face blanks. The corners can be removed with the chainsaw or a bandsaw to make an almost round turning blank. For boxes or candle sticks split the log into 4 pieces. Coat the ends with an end grain sealer wax and store the blanks in a shady location out of the wind. Or take straight to the lathe and start making good shavings!

---Dewayne Hines for Stormy Boudreaux who is lying on a beach in Hawaii.



Book Review: "Woodturning Wizardry" by David Springett

Reviewed by Dewayne Hines

I was given the assignment of reviewing this book months ago. It has taken a while to work through it because the book is incredibly detailed and thorough. I really enjoyed the book and strongly recommend it to anyone considering making highly ornate turnings such as "Chinese Balls" or any turner that wants to improve their skills.

The first few chapters deal with selection of appropriate woods and show how to make your own jigs/chucks to hold the spheres and other shapes for each project. The author also emphasizes self-reliance and shows how to increasing your turning opportunities by making your own tools. This section will be of interest to people with a background in making metal tools but the explanations are clear enough for anyone who is interested.

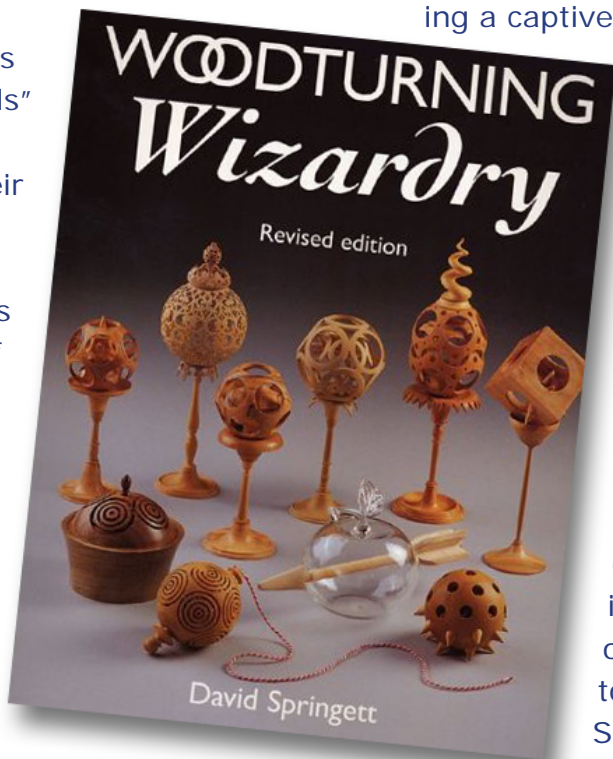
Before you can make an ornate sphere you must first learn to make a solid wooden sphere of precise shape and size. The author shows two methods to accomplish this. The first is a freehand method using templates of the correct radius. The second uses a homemade jig that pivots around the center of the sphere.

The first projects in the book are designed to slowly build up to performing magic on a lathe. The first one is the wooden arrow through a bottle, apple, etc. Next the author shows how to make wooden lattices on flat surfaces, curved lids and finally on a sphere.

When I first looked at the each of the finished projects I thought, "No way!" But after reading through the detailed steps, I now think, "Maybe I could do that." The projects get increasingly intricate and involved up to making a captive lidded box in a sphere and even interlocking spheres from a single piece of wood (no cheating or gluing involved).

Any turner that starts at the beginning of this book, and follows the instructions to build up their skills will soon be making objects to amaze family and friends. I found the illustrations and diagrams to be excellent in explaining each step of the process. When I look at the pictures in the later chapters it reminds me of a book I once read called, "How to Make a Guitar in 300 Easy Steps." I still haven't made that guitar, but maybe someday I'll attempt these projects. This book definitely gives you everything you need to become a Woodturning Wizard.

Woodturning Wizardry by David Springett (revised edition 2005) is published by Fox Chappel Publishing and is available for check-out in the WNT library. This review was provided by WNT member **Dewayne Hines**.





Are You Ready for Some Turnin'?

It all began in October 1992 when a group of Texas woodturners got together near the Colorado River in Columbus, Texas. Did they know what they were starting: the beginning of the second largest woodturning symposium in the US? This year's symposium will take place in Temple, Texas from September 29 through October 1. See you there!

Lead Demonstrators

This year the SWAT Symposium will feature a slate of nationally and internationally known lead demonstrators, as well as a full roster of demonstrators from the Southwest. Our national leads are **Dave Hout**, **André Martel**, **David Nittmann** and **Andi Wolfe**. Our featured regional lead demonstrator is **Clay Foster**, one of the demonstrators at that first get together in 1992.



Dave Hout will be demonstrating metal spinning, vacuum chucking and group participation bowl turning.

André Martel will discuss basic principles in

woodturning, and demonstrate roughing out and cutting end grain using a side ground bowl gouge; as well as the use of ring tools and hook tools.



David Nittmann will discuss the history, design and techniques used in his work, as well as the cutting, burning and dying techniques he uses.



Andi Wolfe's sessions will feature surface enhancements



using pyrography texturing, carving and adding designs to turnings; as well as surface enhancement using various coloring and painting techniques.

Clay Foster will demonstrate surface decoration techniques, such as lithographic ink finish, eggshell finish and burning with a mud resist; multiple axis vessels; and a two-piece hollow vessel.



Regional Demonstrators

The following talented group of regional turners will be demonstrating:

Bill Rubenstein - making turning tools

Bruce Hoover - sanding secrets

Andy Chen - segmented vessel

Bonnie MacDonald - marbling on wood, paper and more

Frank Penta - multi-axis platter and birdhouse

John Horn - turning scraps into wearable art

John Leonard - twice-turned bowl, wet to dry

Larry Zarra - turning tops for fun and profit

Paul Tiefel - all about boxes

Rusty Myers - kitchen utensils

Craig Timmerman - disc vases

Anthony Harris - hand threaded boxes

Reserve demonstrators:

Pleas McKee - turning studs into dollars

Bill Sullivan - the nuts and bolts of turning (mechanical threading)

Pen Turning Venue

Ron McIntire - creating segmented designs using angle-cut segments

John Solberg - how to build, design and turn a closed end pen

Don Ward - integrating bullet casings with traditional pen kits.



("Boxes, Boxes, Boxes ...", continued from page 1)



Examples of various box shapes

orderly to the eye while irregular patterns are more interpretive and abstract. I will show several examples of these techniques.

I think that every turner can benefit by making boxes.

They are a great item for building

skill and they make wonderful gifts for special days.



Lid of one of Paul's boxes



Body of one of Paul's boxes

boxes I think a good approach is what I call "learning by tens". First, learn to make an interesting box. Then develop your skills by making ten similar boxes. After making a few, start putting a different surface treatment on each one. Try different things and even crazy (but not

Another easy way to dress up a box is to use contrasting woods. This can be done by using either symmetrical or irregular patterns. Symmetrical patterns are pleasing and

Also, one can really stretch one's artistic flair in box making – just take a look at some of Michael Hosaluk's boxes.

If you want to really get into

dangerous) things.

By the time you have made ten boxes you will have learned a great deal about the process.

Keep a note pad handy because through this process you will

start having lots of ideas about how to improve the process, ways you can make boxes faster, different boxes you can make and many different ways to decorate them.



The Completed Box



Take a Turning to the SWAT Instant Gallery

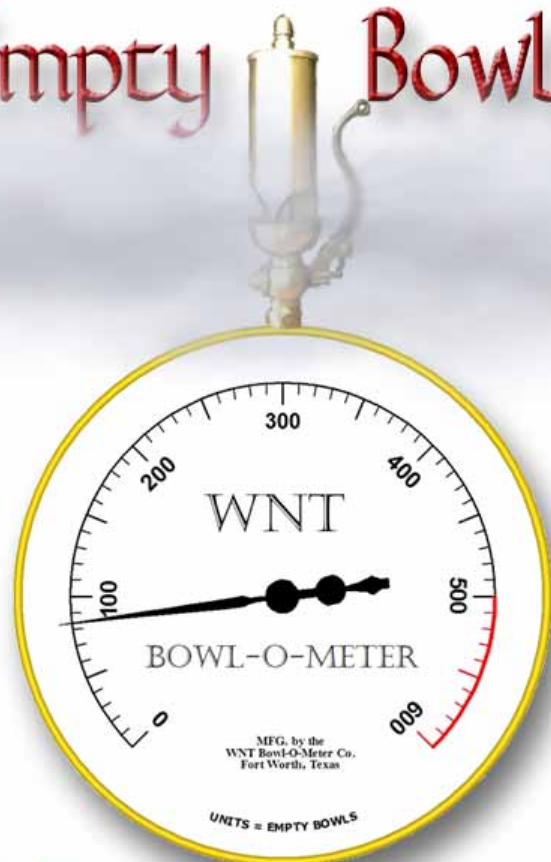
SWAT Instant Gallery Chairman Ken Terrell and his Committee have a goal of exceeding last year's 600 entries. So plan to bring one of your best pieces and put it out to share with other. While the Opening Ceremonies are scheduled for 1:00 PM on Friday, September 29, the Instant Gallery will begin accepting pieces at 9:00 AM on Friday.

We hope to see your piece on display!



Progress Report: "The Empty Bowl Challenge"

Empty Bowls



Total Through August = 84 Bowls

The great response to the Empty Bowl Challenge continued in the month of August with 25 more bowls being turned according to Randy Johnson, our Head Honcho for the Empty Bowls challenge. The total number of bowls has now reached 84 – continuing the great response to the challenge.

The cooler days of autumn are beginning to replace the hot summer days and this is a good time to get into our shops and blow the cobwebs out of the lathe. If you need some FREE WOOD, the club still has an abundant supply of mesquite. It is a great wood to turn and always has very interesting and beautiful grain.

If you feel a bit rusty in turning a bowl or if you have not tried it yet, a great opportunity is coming your way on Saturday, October 21 -- "WNT Mentor Day". Read more about it on page 9 of this newsletter and come to the next meeting on Thursday, September 21 to sign up for one of the mentoring sessions.

Here is our Honor Role for bowls that have been turned as of the August club meeting. We can break the mainspring in the "Bowl-O-Meter" if our current accelerated trend continues as it has thus far.

Name	Bowls
Max Taylor	12
Jimmie Gill	9
Bill Williams	6
Bob Lewis	5
Fred Denke	5
Hollis McLane	5
Wayne Clowers	5
Kirby Wright	4
Randy Johnson	4
Billy Boehme	3
Chelsea Deakins	3
Dan Hudkins	3
John Clark	3
Steve Ott	3
Larry Roberts	2
Roy Chance	2
Steve Meyer	2
Steve Yauch	2
Stormy Boudreaux	2
Byron Constantine	1
John Herber	1
Mike Jones	1
Unknown	1
Total	84



August Program Photographs: “Turning Your Scraps into Wearable Art” by John Horn



John Horn greets the eager crowd with the greatly anticipated **Good News**, “It only takes five dollars to get started turning jewelry.” “Yes, you heard it right, folks — only five dollars, and you are on your way.”



such as a trick for centering a small piece by using a skew. Your editor has always suspected that there was a woodturning related use for the skew, and sure enough, there is. Here, John has assembled the earrings.

John brought along a few finished samples of jewelry that he has turned. During the program, John turned a pair of earrings, a medallion and a men’s belt buckle.



Did John mention that five bucks will “get you started?” By the way, there are a few ancillary items that you will need.



John did mention that five bucks will “get you started.” Along the way, there are a few miscellaneous expenses for special tools, naturally.



John finishes a bead that he has turned.

John gets down to business and starts off by turning a pair of earrings. Turning many of the small jewelry pieces goes quickly because of the small size. John hands out some “pearls” -- of wisdom, that is, and other useful information



Here is the eccentric chuck that John used to turn the belt buckle. John did mention that you could get “started” for five dollars.

John’s presentation was very interesting and informative. He will be presenting a similar program at the SWAT symposium.



Native Texas Tree: Texas Ebony

by Bill Boehme

Texas Ebony is becoming an increasingly popular wood for woodturning. Here are a few facts about the tree that grows in the arid areas of south Texas and northern Mexico.



Texas Ebony is an evergreen tree in the mimosa family and typically grows 15 to 30 feet tall. The branches are short and are covered with very small, dark green leaflets. Texas Ebony's canopy is rounded and has a diameter of 15 to 20 feet. The tree also has short thorns that are interspersed among the branches.

The leaves are small, dark green, bipinnate (compound), arranged on 1 to 2 inch long stems. The leaves fold up at night or in subdued light. Touching the leaves does not put it to sleep as in some mimosa.

During the summer, Texas Ebony is covered



with fragrant plume-like, light yellow blossoms that produce dark brown woody seed capsules that are four to six inches long.

In Mexico, the green seeds are cooked and eaten, and the dark brown woody shells have been known to be roasted as a coffee substitute in times past. Ripe seeds are roasted or popped.

The attractive, short trunk of Texas Ebony is covered with smooth, grey bark without any significant markings. It makes a nice medium-sized shade tree.

In addition to the name Texas Ebony, it is also



known as Mexican Ebony and False Acacia. Because it is tropical, it does not go fully dormant, but it does rest, then grows some more, then rests.

The deep rich brown heartwood is used to make woodturnings and other art objects and small furniture. The red seeds are used in jewelry.

Information in this article about Texas Ebony was obtained primarily from the Texas A&M website and the US Forest Service website.



WNT Mentor Day – Saturday, October 21st

Are you ready to learn a new woodturning skill? Or, perhaps, you would like to refresh an existing skill and feel that you need some personal instruction. Do you know of any use for the skew other than opening paint cans or scraping mud off your shoes (hint: it involves turning spindles)? If you can answer, “yes” to any of these questions, then the new mentoring program is just the thing that you are looking for. Mark your calendar because the day that you have been waiting for will arrive on Saturday, October 21, when WNT Mentor Day arrives. Mentor Day will consist of personal instruction by demonstration and hands-on participation.

A mentor is an experienced club member who will be able to help you learn a particular aspect of woodturning and is willing to work with you as you learn. Mentors will be offering instruction on some particular aspect of woodturning in their personal shop. Information on the topics being covered and the names of the mentors covering each topic will be made available at the next club meeting on September 21. Sign-up sheets will be available for you to select the topic that you are interested in and the mentor(s) who will be covering that topic. Like the rest of us, most mentors have shops that are somewhat limited in size, so the number of participants in any given shop will be restricted. Because of this limitation, early signup is to your advantage.

If you are not able to attend the monthly club meeting on Thursday, September 21, then contact John Horn at 817-485-7397 or e-mail johnhorn@flash.net for the topics and spaces

available for your choice of instructor or topic. The Mentor Day sessions will run from 9:00 AM until noon or until your mentor runs you off.



WNT Club Members Provide Program

On Monday, September 11, Larry Denning, Chelsea Deakins, Steve Ott and John Horn presented a comprehensive overview of woodturning to the Arlington Visual Arts Association.

Larry explained the History of Woodturning and showed a progression of his work as a woodturner which included his three year background at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. as a restorer of period furniture. Chelsea showed the transition of her turnings from functional to artistic and the process she goes through to arrive at the sculpted pieces that comprise her work now. Steve explained and showed how his turnings have developed from simple forms to complicated segmented objects. Finally, John demonstrated an abbreviated version of his presentation on how to Turn Your Scraps into Wearable Art.

Paul Tiefel, who organized the event, was unfortunately unable to participate due to a severe back strain. We want to thank Paul for planning the event and providing the Woodturners of North Texas another opportunity to promote woodturning to our community.



August "Bring-Back" Winners

Here are the names of the August "Bring Back" winners: Bob Lewis, Paul Tiefel(3), Keith Johnson, Bill Boehme, Steve Yauch(2), Steve Ott, Fred Denke, Alan Siebenthall, Gene Jackson, Dewayne Hines, and Kenneth Kilpatrick. If you were the winner of a turned item in August, please bring back a turning that you have made for the September "Bring Back" drawing.



Advertisements

DELTA Lathe

Delta 12" Variable Speed, metal stand on heavy homemade stand with pump jack weights. Accessories: 12" tool rest, 4 inch tool rest, two 12 inch right and left circle tool rests for turning large bowls plus 6 1/2 inch extension, 3 inch face plate, wrenches and manual. See website for pictures.

Hollis McLane, 254-559-5652,
hdmclane@academicplanet.com

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 10th 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 10th of the month. Also, if you decide to cancel an ad, please notify the editor by the 10th of the month.

Calendar

NOTE: The Regular Monthly Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month except in September (SWAT Symposium). Board meetings are held at Cafe Express on University 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.

September 21 - Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, R.D. Evans Rec. Center, Demonstrator: **Paul Tiefel**

September 29 - October 1 - SWAT Symposium in Temple, Texas.

October 3 - WNT Board meeting -- see above for location and time.

October 27 - Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, R.D. Evans Rec. Center, Demonstrator: **Wayne Fitch**

November 7 - WNT Board meeting -- see above for location and time.

November 30 - Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, R.D. Evans Rec. Center, Demonstrator: **Larry Genender**

December 5 - WNT Board meeting -- see above for location and time.

December 9 - Annual WNT Holiday Banquet. Make plans to attend - there will be plenty of good food, fellowship, and prizes. It is time to start turning items to be auctioned off at the Banquet.

Board of Directors

President – Stormy Boudreaux

Home phone 817-441-9238

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Secretary – Chelsea Deakins

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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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