

Woodturners of North Texas

A CHAPTER OF THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

Twentieth Anniversary Year

May 2008 Program:

"Building a Vacuum Chuck System"

by
Pete Tkacs & John Solberg
a.k.a.
"The Bruised Brothers"



We became interested in vacuum chucks a couple of years ago but became turned off by the expense of purchasing one. We were determined to build a system and reduce the cost significantly. After researching other avenues of parts and supplies we came up with a system that functions as well as the catalog versions and was considerably less expensive.

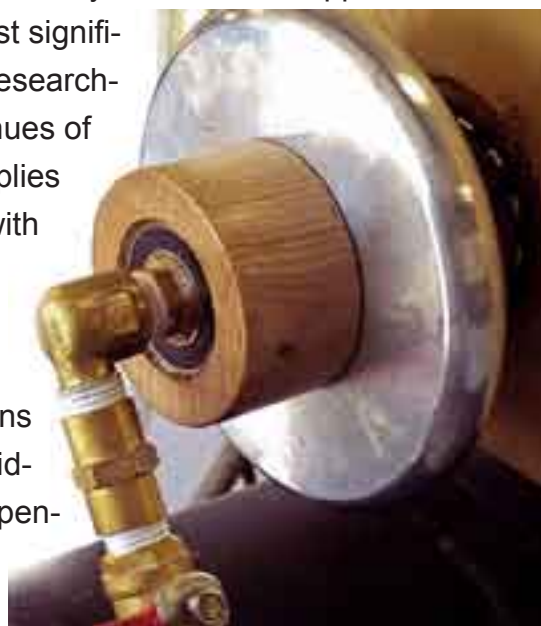
Our demonstration will show how to put a

system together with parts and supplies that can be purchased

locally or on the web at very low prices. We will show a variety of pumps that can be used to supply the vacuum, and we will discuss the pros and

cons of each.

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Next Meeting:

Thursday,

May 29, 2008

Start Time: 6:30 PM

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

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President's message
by Stormy Boudreaux

... making Good Shavings

Please, keep working on the several President Challenges that are on the table:

- Bowls for the Tarrant County Food Bank "Empty Bowls" event
- Turned items from the beautiful spalted Maple that Larry Roberts provided.

The twenty-second Annual National AAW Symposium 2008 will be held Friday 20 June – Sunday 22 June in Richmond, Virginia. If you are interested in attending the AAW Symposium and willing spending part of your time there as a video camera operator in exchange for free registration, let Stormy Boudreaux know immediately. You must be a proficient videographer to be selected by AAW for free registration. Those selected will be obligated to video-graph six of the demonstrations; the rest of the time would be yours. Transportation, banquet and accommodations are your responsibility.

Make use of the many "mentors" in WNT, who are freely available to help you progress in your wood turning skills – remember practice makes perfect, but only if you are practicing success-oriented methods and techniques.

Learn to sharpen your tools and wear your safety gear, and make good shavings!

Stormy



Building a Vacuum Chuck System - *(continued from page 1)*

Several techniques using a vacuum system will be demonstrated. We will talk about adapting



this system to most any lathe. And we will provide a list of resources where additional information and supplies can be found.

Andi Wolfe: **WNT Featured Instructor** **for 2008**

The Woodturners of North Texas featured instructor for 2008 will be Andi Wolfe on June 6, 7 and 9-11.

Andi is a master of surface decoration, carving and coloring of woodturnings. She uses woodburning, rotary carving, and various means of coloring to enhance her already exquisite turnings.



Andi's web site may be found at:

<http://www.andiwolfe.com>.

There will be an all-day demonstration on Saturday, June 7 from 9 AM until 3 PM and the cost will be \$10 and includes spouses who wish to attend.

Andi will also be conducting one and two day hands-on classes of six students each. The hands-on classes have all been filled.



“Bring-Back” Drawing **Winners**

Don't forget that if you were a winner of any item in the April 2008 drawing, you are obligated to bring a replacement item for the May 2008 “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 May 2008 meeting.

NAME

John Horn
Ned Baker
Ken Kilpatrick
George Butcher
James Haynes
Stormy Boudreaux

TURNED ITEM

Anasazi screwdriver
Pau Ferro screwdriver
Maple Burl Pen
Pecan Goblet
Segmented Bracelet
Hackberry bowl

NAME

Steve Tolar
Bill Collins
George Butcher
Pete Tkacs
Ned Baker
Jim Bragdon
Pete Tkacs
Fred Denke

NON-TURNED ITEM

Pear Log
Pear Log
Pear Log
Sanding Sealer
Sanding Sealer
Oak wood block
\$20 Gift Certificate
\$20 Gift Certificate



New WNT Library Video Addition

“Making a Peppermill” by Ted Sokolowski

Reviewed by Randy Johnson

I have come to the conclusion that most woodturners learn the basics of turning quickly (within about a year). So rather than focusing attention on subjects (e.g. sharpening or “how to cut” etc.) that have been thoroughly covered by other great DVD’s and books, I have focused my instruction on the finer elements of design and the tool control necessary to achieve the subtleties of design. I hope, through my observations, to help you better “see” what makes up good form and elegant lines so that you can apply that to your own work and grow from there. The “platform” I’m using for this instruction is the simple peppermill because it affords many graceful lines that can be studied. But even if you never make a peppermill, what you will learn from this DVD will help increase your knowledge of tool control so that you can apply graceful contours to all of your work and it will help you understand the thought processes necessary to capture the finer aspects of design. Apply these techniques and your work will ultimately improve.

Ted Sokolowski

This DVD is very long -- 1 hour and 50 minutes. The first time I watched it I fell asleep. But do not take that as a negative, I was tired. So after my nap and able to devote the proper attention to the DVD, I found this to be a very informative video. Yes it is long but it is an excellent video to explore design elements of the peppermill and it is told from an artist perspective. While there is nothing wrong with an artist perspective, I do view a peppermill as a functional item to use and, therefore, more in the crafts area than in the arts arena.

But putting the art versus craft discussion aside, it is a great teaching video with ten chapters of in depth peppermill making information.

Chapter 1 – Parts of the Peppermill

Chapter 2 – Design Your Peppermill

Chapter 3 – Find Visual Interest

Chapter 4 – Prepare the Blank

Chapter 5 – Bore the Cavities

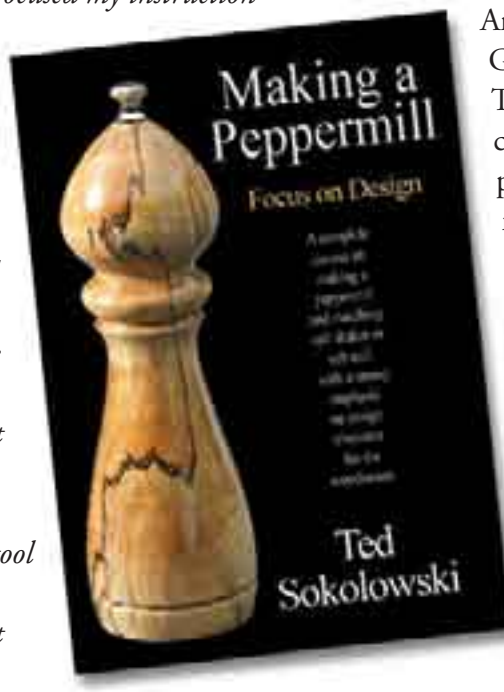
Chapter 6 – Make a Jam Chuck

Chapter 7 – Shape Your Peppermill

Chapter 8 – Sand and Finish

Chapter 9 – Assemble the Peppermill

Chapter 10 – Make a Matching Salt Shaker



Another nice feature of the DVD is Ted’s Goody Box, in Ted’s own words; Ted’s Goody Box includes supportive clips that re-affirm the techniques and procedures throughout the video in a more detailed closer look that would otherwise break the flow of the main DVD. I’ve included these clips in the menu under the title of Goody Box. You can view these after watching the video to help you better understand the concepts of design in a more concrete way. Clips include: The Bandsaw Jig, Making an Alternate Salt Mill instead of a salt shaker, The Underhand Grip, The Rule of Thirds and Parallelism.

I found this video to be an intermediate to advanced interest to the turner. Many of the techniques require experienced tool technique usage. The skew work presented is excellent but not for a beginner. Can a beginner benefit from this video? You bet! But, I would not recommend a peppermill as a beginning project until the beginner has mastered tool control. After saying that and reading my own words, it is time for this turner to go practice making wood chips.

Happy and safe woodturning,

Randy Johnson



Mark Your Calendars!

WNT Picnic

Saturday, May, 17th 9 AM to 5 PM



**Hamburgers, Hot Dogs,
and Drinks provided ...**

**Potluck for salads and
desserts!**

Fun Activities for all:

- Fellowship
- Food
- Swimming
- Trailer work day
- Toy car turning and
more ...



Location:

**Jimmie & Mary Gill's
3425 Meadow Oaks Drive
Haltom City**



March 2008 Program Review

"Turning and Decorating a Platter" by Al Stirt



Renowned wood artist Al Stirt of Enosburg Falls, Vermont began the demonstration by turning a wide rimmed platter from maple. --->



After the rim has been completed, he paints it black. The decorative pattern will be carved through the painted surface. --->



Here he shows an example of a wide rimmed vessel. He uses a home made vacuum vice to hold it in place while it is being turned.



A power chisel type of carving tool is then used to cut the pattern after drawing a pattern on the rim. --->



The lines grow into a scheme for repeating the basic shapes. --->



The overall scheme for developing a rather free form design can be seen here.

The well attended program by Al Stirt proved to live up to its billing as a very educational and entertaining demonstration.



April 2008 Program in Pictures

“BOWL EDGE TREATMENT USING LEATHER AND STRAW”

by Fred Denke



Fred brought several examples to show the various ways that he has used lacing to enhance the edges of his vessels.

BELOW: Fred maintains a set of cards to show the various lacing techniques that he uses.



LOWER RIGHT: Fred shows how to make the hole pattern for the lacing.



The program presented by Fred Denke was well done. It was thorough, interesting, and educational. His provided handout information and sources for getting the materials needed to do leather and straw lacing.



AAW Membership Benefit:

Educational Opportunity Grant (EOG)

One of the benefits of AAW membership is the Educational Opportunity Grant program that provides money for worthwhile causes that benefit woodturning. Here is Matt Rabe's story on the grant that he received.

Woodturner of North Texas member, Matt Rabe, has developed and submitted to the American Association of Woodturning (AAW) a grant idea to demonstrate woodturning to public schools in the HEB School District. The AAW award Matt his grant stipend last month.

If WNT readers remember, at last November's club meeting Dr. Genender addressed the club on the merits of joining AAW and one of those merits was the grant program the national AAW has set up to award AAW members to further the art and passion of woodturning. Well, Matt took the initiative; he joined AAW; and then he set out to develop his grant idea and submit his proposal to AAW. For all his determination and hard work, Matt was awarded an \$800 grant from the AAW. His idea is to bring a lathe back into the school to demonstrate turning. Matt states, "Most schools don't have shop class anymore, so I thought this would be an

interesting way to do it. My approach was to get the funding to purchase a small mini lathe, chuck and stand. I do already own a lathe, but it is too large and fragile to bring into the school." Matt is currently working with the art teachers at LD Bell, Central Junior High, and Stonegate Elementary, since these are schools that his daughters go to, or will go to.

Matt's thoughts were, "The whole purpose of the grant is "expand and share wood turning." If we didn't have Dr. Genender come in and talk to us about the grant program I won't have even known about it." He adds, "The application process is pretty straight forward. Four easy questions. You can overwhelm them with info, but I kept it somewhat simple. I e-mailed the art teachers prior to sending in the application with my idea and also sent my web site to them so they could see what I do.

Their return e-mails acknowledged the interest of me coming in and demonstrating wood turning. I also provided the AAW a detailed list of what I was going to purchase... lathe, safety equipment, chuck, and also some tools."

"After I sent in the grant application - January 15 was the deadline - I didn't think I would have a

chance. I just joined the club, and I have been turning for less then 2 years. I also thought maybe I would need to have a lesson plan, and everything planned out, to even think about being considered." As it turns out the AAW is going to award almost \$80,000 this year. Approximately 150 people apply each year; the odds of a positive award are very good.



Details on the WNT Picnic

A reminder that the WNT pot-luck picnic is to be held next Saturday, May 17th (9am to 5pm) at Dr. Gill's home in Haltom City. Everyone and their families are welcome to attend! If you are a long-time member, come on out and get re-acquainted with old friends...if you are new member, come on out to meet new friends and "talk turning."

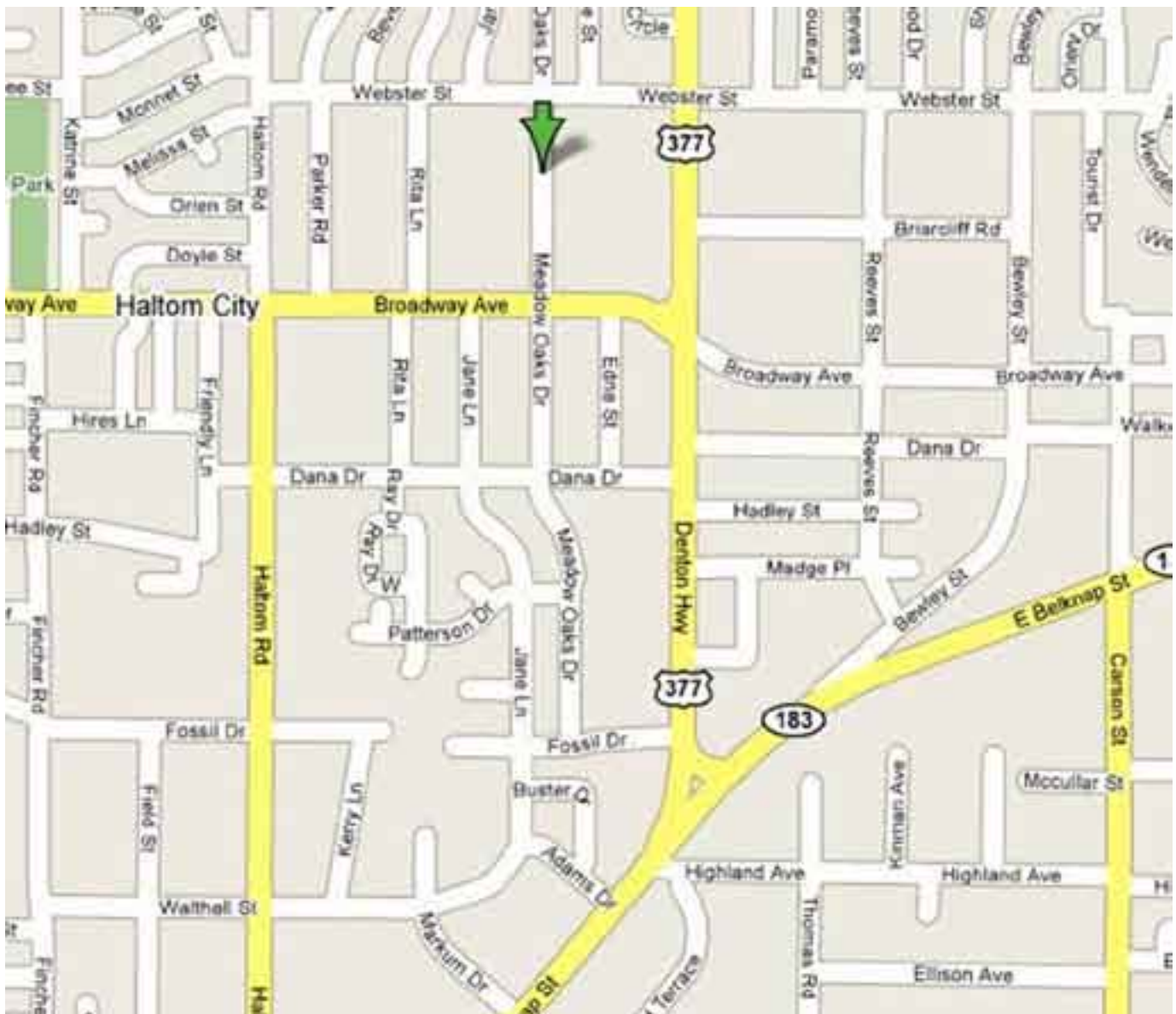
The club will supply the hamburgers, hotdog,

bun, chips, condiments, drinks and ice. You supply a salad or dessert and a lawn chair for yourself.

There will be numerous activities throughout the day including Toy Car Turning for Scottish Rite Hospital, work sessions on the club trailer (general re-organizing and maintenance) and general socializing.

Lunch will be served around noon or whenever Chef Gill decides that the burgers are done.

Dr. Gill's address is:
3425 Meadow Oaks Dr.
Haltom City, TX 76117



Advertisements

Woodworking Tools

Porter-Cable biscuit joiner model #555 with metal carrying case - \$75.
Freud stacked dado set in box - \$50.
Contact Max Taylor at 817-429-3954 or e-mail at milmax@sbcglobal.net

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 adds 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 at the R. D. Evans Recreational Center, 3242 Lackland Rd., Forth Worth, Texas. Board meetings are held at **Schlotzsky'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.

May 29 - Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, R. D. Evans Rec. Center, Demonstrator: **Pete Tkacs and John Solberg present "Building and Using a Vacuum Chuck System"**

June 3 - WNT Board Meeting

June 26 - Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, R. D. Evans Rec. Center, Demonstrator: **Johnny Tolly presents "M&M Dispenser"**

July 1 - WNT Board Meeting

July 31 - Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, R. D. Evans Rec. Center, Demonstrator: **Delbert Dowdy presents "Handcrafted Kitchen Utensils"**

Board of Directors

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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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