

JULY 2003

WOODTURNERS OF NORTH TEXAS

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

Next Meeting: JULY 31th

Hand-On Session: 5pm – 6pm

Regular Meeting: 7:00pm

200-Suite B North Vacek

Meeting will feature: John Horn
Program will be on "Taming the Skew"

**** Bring something to the Instant Gallery ****

June Demonstrator – John Horn

"Taming The Skew" Many people find the skew intimidating, especially when they first start using it, but with an understanding of the principles in making cuts with the skew, even beginners can start using it on some cuts with complete success the first time they try it. Yes, I know that some of you are going to doubt that statement, but I regularly show people who have never held any turning tool how to make a few successful cuts with the skew the first time they pick it up. The demonstration will show how easy these cuts are and how to be comfortable with the skew. If you only master two or three of the twelve cuts you can perform with this mysterious tool, you will begin to love it instead of hate it. No other tool can do exactly the same job and once you make it your friend, you will look for opportunities to use it. It is true, all cuts with the skew are not simple and yes, to be an expert with the skew in all the cuts possible, it takes practice, even if you do understand the principles. When I first started turning, the first tool I used was the skew because the word was out that "all the professionals used the skew and found that it gave the best surface of all the turning tools." Unfortunately, I did not have a teacher but I did read Dick Sing's book on pen making and watched Bonnie Klein and Richard Raffan's videos that explained something about the tool and how to use it. Believe it or not, I never had any problem with the skew while I was only making pens. Later, I discovered the reason for the lack of difficulty was that I was only using the planning cut and sometimes a roughing cut when working on pen blanks. When trying to turn beads and other curved surfaces the difficulty increases and the dreaded catches begin if you violate the cutting principles even slightly. Here is where a thorough understanding of how the skew cuts material and why practice is absolutely essential. A musician does not learn to play a musical instrument over night and neither does the woodturner develop the expertise to use the skew in a day or two. Time spent learning the techniques of exactly how the various cuts are accomplished and then practicing them will bring rewards beyond what you ever expected.

Ramblings

On July 19th we had an excellent trip out to the new Rockler store in South Arlington. We were invited, by the manager Robert Pearson, to participate in a Demo Day at the store. In conjunction with the local Woodcarver's Club, we demonstrated woodturning to the customers who came to the store. A flyer the store handed out for a week or so before the Demo Day announced our participation and helped promote the event. As you know we have as part of our club's mission statement, the privilege of promoting woodturning when we can. WNT members in attendance turned tops and pens, and also taught some of the customers to turn pens or tops. Some of the customers were in grade school and they and their parents got involved. We even signed up a couple of new members. Brochures were handed out by our club members and the store staff (who have been very helpful in promoting our club). Don't forget, we get a 10% discount at the store.

Member News

One of our members, **Roy Ashley**, is undergoing treatment in Lubbock for complications of diabetes and will likely be transferred to a nursing home during the last week of July. Our thoughts and prayers should be with him and his family.

Charles Rudolph, one of our members that passed away recently wanted to honor our club with a lasting memory. His wife Marj, has asked, and we agreed, to set up an Educational Fund for the Woodturners of North Texas. Friends of the Rudolph's have contributed to this fund and it now has in excess of \$500. The Board will decide in the month's to come how to administer the fund, but the Education of Woodturners is the basic goal. Anyone can contribute to the "Woodturners of North Texas Educational Fund".

By-Laws of The WNT

It has been a number of years since we formalized the By-Laws of the club. We have formed a committee to review and suggest possible changes to the by-laws. The committee consists of Mike Wallace, Robert Brandt and Alan Siebenthal. One of the suggested changes includes adding a couple of new Board members. These positions would include a board member to be responsible for the Website and a board member who would be responsible for Audio/Video. Please contact a member of the committee if you have any questions or suggestions for revisions of the bylaws. We will have copies to hand out at the July 31st regular meeting.

By-Laws of Southwest Association of Woodturners

According to the by-laws of the SWAT (formally known as Texas Turn or Two), when the President of the Board of SWAT is elected, that club shall select a new representative to the Board. This will allow the President of SWAT to concentrate on that organization's activities and the new club rep to concentrate of their local club. At the July Board meeting of the WNT, Mike Wallace was selected as our club's rep. If you have any questions about the SWAT, you may contact Mike Wallace.

Toy Project 2003– Help Needed!!!

We have been making toys for needy kids at Christmastime for the past 4 years. This has become a major project of our Club over this period, and has grown steadily, so that last year we produced and donated over 1800 toys.

I have been leading this effort since its inception, and it is now time for another member to take over. I will continue to actively participate, but with my duties in A Texas Turn or Two (aka SWAT), I no longer have the time to devote to leading the Toy Project. This job really does not take a whole lot of time, and the rewards of getting the toys produced and given away are well worth the effort.

Please consider volunteering for the position. Contact me or Mike Wallace.

By Larry Genender

A Metaphor for Jacob (my new Grandson)

Working green wood and parenting. The process is not dissimilar. As the tumers, sculptors, molders, parents, we can choose a desired shape, envisioning an end result. The blank, the child, however, will have different ideas about its destiny. Influences on the tree from years ago are not apparent until brought to the surface by our tools. Those influences may surprise us. They will hopefully delight, but they will always cause us to adjust our outlook, adjust the angle and choice of tool, and adjust our expectations of the finished, mature result. Maddeningly, each adjustment by us will cause a change in how the blank, the child responds to our influences. A too-thin wall may warp, and one left too thick may crack or split from unseen pressures. Each piece will tend to seek its own shape, its own balance. Hopefully, our work will help that shape, that balance to be achieved, and beauty to be brought forth. That green piece will eventually decide it is done and insist on being reverse chucked and signed. When the finish has finally dried you can then step back and admire with pride, a true work of art.

Walter Barrett

Hands-On Session

The July meeting will be preceded by a hands-on session . This is your chance to receive individual guidance from a club member who feels that their personal participation can make a difference. Bring your questions, troublesome tools, and contrary wood, because a fellow member will be there to help you learn and grow. It will be your personal participation that makes the session worthwhile.

“Bring Back” Winners at March Meeting

<u>Who Won</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Provided By</u>
Phil Joines	WoodTurner Pro Software	Dale Green/Jeff Wentworth
Walter Barrett	Banksia Pod Vase	Cercie Joines
Aaron Levy	Egg Cup & Holder	Vic Miller
Ken Cardin	Lidded Box	Steve Ott

Calendar of Events

July 31 Thursday	<u>"Hands-On Session"</u> 5:00pm to 6:00pm, then WNT Monthly Meeting: 7:00pm 200-B N. Vacek Demo: John Horn: "Taming the Skew"
August 5 Tuesday	WNT Directors Meeting 6:00pm at Angelo's BBQ
August 28 Thursday	WNT Monthly Meeting: 7:00pm 200-B N. Vacek Demo: Ken Terrell
August 29,30,31	SouthWest Association of Turners (SWAT) Symposium. Wichita Falls, TX
Sept 2 Tuesday	WNT Directors Meeting 6:00pm at Angelo's BBQ
Sept 19, 20 Fri, Sat	Jazz by the Boulevard Historic Camp Bowie Blvd. http://www.fortworthjazz.com/

FOR SALE

1. Shopsmith Mark V \$800.00 :
Scroll saw, 4" Planer, 6" Belt Sander,
Band saw, Wood Lathe accessories,
reconditioned motor.
Wayne Clowers: 817-834-7755
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1. Nova Lathe 3000
Paul W. Judkins
Alamo Woodturners Assn.
15914 Mission Ridge
San Antonio, TX 78232
Call: (210) 490-3754 or
E-Mail: pjudkins@satx.rr.com

Board of Directors

President - Mike Wallace

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Vice President - Robert Brandt

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Treasurer - James Haynes

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Secretary - Arnold Jansen

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Activities - John Horn

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Newsletter - Walter Barrett

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Past President - John Horn

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WNT WEB SITE

www.woodturnersofnorthtexas.org

For general information send email to:
info@woodturnersofnorthtexas.org

FOR SALE

1990 Ford E150 Van, One owner, Great
for camping or wood safaris. 110V
Roof Air Conditioner/Heater, Trailer
Package. Wired for 110V and 12 V.
\$5500, must see and drive to
appreciate. Alan Siebenthall
817-280-0376