

Woodturners of North Texas

A CHAPTER OF THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

April 2009 Program:

Alan Lacer
presents

OVAL TURNING

Next Meeting:

**Thursday,
April 30, 2009
Start Time: 6:30 PM**

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

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In this evening demo Alan will share with you the unique world of oval turning. First a little background. It is very likely that Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) drew the plans for the first oval turning chuck. It is a question of math and geometry (one of da Vinci's strong points) to achieve an elliptical spinning orbit on a wood lathe. Whether he was the first to describe such a process it is clear that oval turn-

popularity of oval picture frames greatly contributed to the interest in oval turning. One American company, the Old Schwamb Mill near



Boston, has continued to keep this tradition alive with its production of oval picture frames, although on a limited basis.



Fast forward to the twenty-first century. Oval turning had almost been forgotten and certainly little seen, a modern version of the oval chuck appeared recently which allows turners to produce work that is both a challenging and rewarding departure from circular turning. This new design, which is not re-

ing appeared in sixteenth century Europe and then became quite popular during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; probably reaching its peak of popularity by the nineteenth century. The advent of photography and the great

... continued on page 3



President's message
by Dave Marshall

... making
Good
Shavings

Dear WNT members,

So, how do you get to Carnegie Hall? Practice ...practice ... practice. How do you win national basketball championships or get selected as a featured turner for an AAW symposium? That's right; practice ... practice ... practice. Raw talent will take you part of the way, but if you want to be the best; ya gotta practice ... a lot. Do you think that Andi Wolfe carved her first leaf bowl and had it turn out perfect and refined? How do you think Larry Roberts learned to turn his large mesquite platters? Do you think that Steve Worcester's hollow forms with glass tops started out as thin-walled and as delicate as we saw during his demo for our club a couple of months ago? No, ... they all practiced to get to where they are today. Some do it all on their own; others have coaches and teachers and peers to guide them. But when it gets right down to it practice makes perfect.

This month, we have the epitome of a first-rate teacher, woodturner extraordinaire, coming to our club to teach us and to guide us. We are so fortunate to welcome Alan Lacer to north Texas this month. Alan will be with our club and club members for nearly a full week showing us his vast turning skill set, as well as, coaching us as we practice our skills whether with a skew, turning lidded boxes or working on the

basics of bowl turning. All of his classes have been filled, but if you didn't get the chance to sign up for one, there will be two open sessions for you to see Alan in action. The first will be Saturday, April 25th for an all-day demo at our regular club meeting place. The cost to attend is \$10 for the all-day session. The second time to see him will be at our regularly scheduled club meeting on Thursday, April 30th. You won't want to miss either of these demos! Then, I encourage you to go out and ... That's right: Practice!

Expect an abbreviated club meeting this month so we can devote as much time as possible to Alan. We will still have our critique table so if you plan on bringing an item, let's make sure it's one of your best. It's time for the Woodturners of North Texas to show off ... a little bit. We will also have our Bring-Back Raffle and there will be more special turnings courtesy of some of your Board of Directors. If you were lucky enough to win last month, we'll expect great turnings from you too!

We'll see you at both Alan's all-day demo on April 25 and at the next club meeting on April 30.

Good shavings to all,

Dave

“Bring-Back” Drawing Winners

Oval Turning ... (continued from page 1)

ally a chuck, but a mechanical interface between the spindle and chuck that converts rotation to an elliptical orbit or, as the makers like to describe it, an “oval turning device” has successfully surmounted some of the problems plaguing older chucks such as balance, changing the dimensions of the ellipse, adapting to different lathes, noise level and safety issues. It is a marvel of mechanical engineering ingenuity designed by Johannes Volmer of Germany and produced by Vicmarc in Australia.

The chuck is only part of the story. Turning ovals is quite different from working with circles. First, there is no individual center point as in normal turning. What occurs is a horizontal plane where all cuts and sanding activities must occur. Outside of this plane is another oval shape; working outside of the true plane results in a smeared or irregular shape. Some turners work with a trapped tool system that is setup to stay within the confines of that plane. Other turners work free-hand but use a laser level that throws a horizontal line to “show the way.” And some turners feel the correct position and see the stable part of the oval within a blurred image—the turning then is very much like ordinary circle turning.

Alan will bring examples of plates, platters and even hollow-turned oval vessels that he has been pioneering. In the demo he will take you through most of the process in making an oval bowl.

To read more about oval chucks and turning, the following web sites have a lot of useful information: <http://www.volmer--ovaldrehen.de/english.htm> and <http://www.alanlacer.com> where there is an article written by Alan Lacer about oval turning at the [Old Schwamb Mill](#). Visitors to the Mill are cordially welcomed. The three Mill buildings, including the woodworking shop, are open to the public on Tuesdays from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P. M. Machinery demonstrations are given in the woodworking shop.

Don't forget that if you were a winner of any item in the March 2009 drawing, you are obligated to bring a replacement item for the April 2009 “Bring Back” drawing. The rules have changed and you can see the “Making Good Shavings” column in March 2009 newsletter for updated guidelines on the “Bring Back” drawing. Winners of any turned item should bring back a replacement turned item of their own creation to the next meeting and winners of any other item such as tools or wood are encouraged to also bring a turned item that they have created in lieu of a non-turned item. 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 April meeting.



WNT Library -- New DVD Addition:

The Skew Chisel with Allan Batty

Besides purchasing books and videos for the library, we also accept donations. This month, thanks to one of our members, we are adding a new DVD titled, The Skew Chisel with Allan Batty. Everyone needs to give Steve Ott a pat on the back, thanks for the DVD, Steve.

This also brings up another opportunity for anyone who has a video or book that they are no longer using and it is just gathering dust on a shelf; to donate that dust collector to our library. I promise to add it to the WMT library and not my own. I will even make an effort to review new additions to the library. Well that is enough solicitation for the library, on to this month's newest addition.

The Skew Chisel
With Allan Batty

I have been reluctant to add skew chisel videos to the library, it seems everyone in the club except maybe John Horn uses them to open paint cans. Wait a minute maybe that's not fair, even I use a skew sometimes and anyway when you view this excellent video you learn much more than just the skew chisel. As Allan explains most people do not use a skew because they are afraid of it. After all you can get some nasty catches with a skew but he believes the fear comes from not presenting the tool to the work properly. After all it is a very versatile tool and he starts by explaining the bevel angle that needs to be on every skew. Skew angle on the cutting

edge can be found anywhere from 55° to 25°, Allan uses a 40° angle and explains why the wide range of cutting bevels.

He starts showing 6 different cuts on a spindle and along the way he shows a Roman Ogee cut by a gouge and cleaned up with the skew. He also introduces the parting tools and has the best example of how to use the parting tool correctly that I have ever seen on a video. He also introduces what he calls the half round gouge, what we in the states commonly call the spindle roughing gouge. Some of his terminology is different than what I am used to but what can one expect from a foreigner. He also shows the skew making a planning cut from both direction and also in making a peeling cut.

He then moves on to three more cuts, the V-cut, cove and round (what we call a bead). Although he does say the gouge is his favorite tool to make a round except when access is a problem. He then demonstrates making a bead with a beading tool before he goes on a cabriole leg project. He makes the project look so easy and shows how to do multi-axis turning in making the leg. All and all it is a very good video that show much, much more than just a skew. I would recommend it to anyone. I want to thank Steve Ott for this excellent video.

Happy turning,
Randy Johnson.



Advertisements

Anchorseal®

The club has purchased a 55-gallon drum of Anchorseal sealant for green wood and it is available to members for \$9.00 per gallon. It can be purchased at club meetings and at other times is being stored at Jimmie Gill's place, 3425 Meadow Oaks Dr. in Haltom City. Contact James Haynes for payment.

Pipe Clamps for Sale

Max Taylor has twelve pipe clamps of various lengths that he is selling for \$7.50 each or the whole lot for \$90.00. Contact Max Taylor at 817-429-3954 or milmax@sbcglobal.net for further details.

WANTED: Faceplate

Hollis McLane is looking for a three inch faceplate threaded for a Powermatic 3520 lathe 1 ¼ X 8 spindle. Contact Hollis McLane at 254-559-5652 or hollisd@cebridge.net for further details.

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 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.

April 30 - Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, R. D. Evans Rec. Center, Demonstrator: **Alan Lacer -- Oval Turning Bowls or Platters**

May 5 - WNT Board Meeting

May 28 - Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, R. D. Evans Rec. Center, Demonstrator: **Clay Foster -- Offset Turning Techniques**

June 2 - WNT Board Meeting

June 25 - Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, R. D. Evans Rec. Center, Demonstrator: **TBD**

July 7 - WNT Board Meeting

July 30 - Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, R. D. Evans Rec. Center, Demonstrator: **Delbert Dowdy -- Turning Items from Antlers**

August 4 - WNT Board Meeting

August 27 - Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, R. D. Evans Rec. Center, Demonstrator: **Mike Jones -- Turning Negative Space**

September 1 - WNT Board Meeting

September 24 - Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, R. D. Evans Rec. Center, Demonstrator: **John Horn -- How to Hold Just About Anything**

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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