

# Woodturners of North Texas

A CHAPTER OF THE  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

## October 2009 Program:

# Turn Pens Write Now!

by **Randy Johnson**



### Next Meeting:

**Thursday,  
October 29, 2009  
Start Time: 6:30 PM**

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

### Inside This Issue

<b>This Month's Program</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Making Good Shavings</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>RISE Adventure</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Robert Rosand</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Successful SWAT</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Bring Back Winners</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>From the Editor</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Advertisements</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Calendar</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Club Officers</b>	<b>7</b>

I believe that I joined the club in October or November of 2004. When I joined, I had never turned anything in my life. I purchased two raffle tickets at the first meeting and, to my shock, learned that if I won I would have to bring back a turned item. I had never turned anything in my life ... wait a minute, I already said that. The gods of "raffledom" shined down on me and thankfully I won nothing (the story of my life.) But I get ahead of myself. How did I get involved in woodturning? It goes back to a past president and a new Wood working store which came to town: Rockler's.

When I received a flyer in the mail that there would be a pen turning demo at Rockler's on a Saturday, I asked my wife if she would like to go and look (after all, it was a **free** demonstration.) To make a long story short, she decided that buying a

Jet mini-lathe would be a great thing to keep me from being such a couch potato. I cautioned her that I would need more than just a lathe to turn a wooden pen. She said that would be no problem and, sure enough, my first slimline only cost a little less than \$600. Do you know how many pens you can buy for \$600? Well this was in October 2004 when Mike Wallace introduced me to the "Vortex" of woodturning. I have been buying woodturning stuff ever since. My Vicmarc VM-100 chuck cost more than my mini-lathe. And for some unknown reason my tools got dull and I did not have a way to sharpen them. The vortex had me and I have yet to escape and the truth be told, it is one of the most enjoyable hobbies that I have ever taken up. I still have my mini and have since added a Jet 1642 - can you spell V. O. R. T. E. X?

*continued on page 4*

... making  
President's message  
by Dave Marshall  
Good  
Shavings

Ciao!

Una nota di scarsità a tutti voi mescolatori di legno nel Texas del nord. Poichè state leggendo questo, sono sul prowl per i colleghi mescolatori di legno in Italia. Per le prime due settimane di ottobre, la miei moglie ed io stanno visitando Firenze e la regione della Toscana. La storia qui è abbastanza stupefacente e tutto il materiale illustrativo fenomenale. Abbiamo veduto un certo numero di turnings di legno antichi; parecchi di cui incorpori un tornio del motore della rosa. Posso immaginare Michelangelo scrutare sopra la spalla di un Turner di legno del giorno che funziona al suo tornio; domandandosi circa che cosa ogni attrezzo ha gradetto la sgorbiatura, l'attrezzo di separazione e, naturalmente, la direzione obliqua - forse ha utilizzato un attrezzo obliquo per l'apertura delle sue vernici?!!! Stupito e nella meraviglia di questo in Turner esperto, probabilmente allora si è diretto fuori per scheggiare via al suo David.

(A short note to all you wood turners in North Texas. As I was writing this, I was on the prowl for fellow wood turners in Italy. For the first two weeks of October, my wife and I visited Florence and the Tuscany region. The history there is quite amazing and all the artwork phenomenal. We saw a number of antique wood turnings; quite a few of which incorporated rose engine lathe work. I can imagine Michelangelo peering over the shoulder of a wood turner of the day working at his lathe; wondering about what each tool did, such as the gouge, the parting tool, and, of course, the skew - maybe he used a skew tool for opening up his paints?!!!

Amazed and in wonderment of this skilled turner, he probably then headed off to chip away at his David.)

Please take a little time this month to turn a few bowls for our Club philanthropy - Empty Bowls. Un piccolo qui e poco là da tutti noi notevolmente sarà apprezzato! (A little here and a little there by all of us will be greatly appreciated!)

The month concludes with our scheduled meeting on October 29th. This month we have our own scribe-meister, Randy Johnson, demonstrating the ins-and-outs-and-ups-and-downs of pen turning! Randy's pens are something to behold ... though I wouldn't know firsthand because he has never given me one. I've noticed each month on our Critique Table the great quality of pens that many of our members have turned. I look forward to this month to see what I'm sure will be a plethora of writing instruments. Don't let me down.

Buoni trucioli a tutti,

*Dave*



# RISE Adventure

On September 26<sup>th</sup> the Woodturners of North Texas participated in the RISE Adventure, “End of Summer Bash” by turning tops for physically challenged young people at the event on Grapevine Lake. Ken Cardin coordinated the woodturners from our chapter. Together we turned and distributed 161 tops to children that attended the event. Nine members of the WNT participated by turning and interacting with the children. Those who participated in the event were, Bob and Gary Adams, Ken Cardin, Bob Clark, John Horn, John Lauderbaugh, Robert Richards, Chas Thornhill, and Steve Yauch.



The RISE Adventures organization, which stands for Recovery, Inspiration, Success, and Empowerment, has a goal of creating independence for the entire physically challenged population. They plan to accomplish this goal through sports, recreation and outdoor events and programs. For more information about



RISE Adventures consider visiting their web site: <http://www.riseadventures.org/>

This is the second year that the WNT has cooperated with Paul Gray, the Chief Executive Officer of RISE Adventures, to provide joy and comfort to the physically challenged children of our community. Paul tells me the WNT booth has been the most popular activity at the End of Summer Bash for both years that we have participated. All of us feel a great deal of satisfaction in being able to aid and comfort those in our handicapped community.

John Horn

*Turn Pens Write Now! ... (continued from page 1)*

I still consider myself a beginner to intermediate turner and was fortunate to have my first lesson with Alan Lacer this year. I still turn pens from time to time but have moved into boxes as one of my favorite items to turn. If only it was easy to cut end grain! That is my one area I am still trying to improve. I just turned my first goblet so I am now only three years behind Steve Ott. But don't worry, Steve, I don't think I am going to catch you. In the time that I have been with the club, I have seen a subtle shift in what I believe interests many club members. When I first came to the club it was mostly bowls, a lot of natural edge bowls and big bowls (think Jim Tanksley.) That is still the interest of many members but I believe spindle turning is increasingly becoming an area in which many members are interested. Part of the reason for this is, I believe, because of the ready availability of good, well built small lathes that lend themselves to spindle turning. Pen turning is nothing more than spindle turning and the tools for spindle turning are not necessarily the same as with bowl turning. Skews and spindle roughing gouges just do not have a place in most bowl turnings. Techniques and tool control are also different for each.

Pen turning is where I started in woodturning and it will always have a special place in my heart. Hopefully my presentation will kindle an interest in pen turning if you have never turned a pen, and maybe address some issues you are having if you already turn pens. I hope to see you at the October meeting and will try to answer any questions you might have.



# Robert Rosand

scheduled to be

## WNT Hands-on Demonstrator

for

### April 2010



Professional Woodturner and instructor, Bob Rosand, has agreed to be our "hands-on" Demonstrator/Instructor next Spring, April 17 - 22, 2010.

If you are not familiar with Bob Rosand and his work, you can find information about him on his web site at: <http://www.rrosand.com>.

His video "Turning Projects from Scrap" is a classic and one that I would highly recommend to any turner, beginner or advanced. If you are an AAW member, the DVD or VHS tape sells for \$19.00 on the AAW web site at <http://www.woodturner.org>.

Bob primarily turns small to medium sized objects that can be completed in a relatively short period of time. He is recognized as an excellent teacher and demonstrator. His style of demonstrating and teaching is an easy going, relaxed presentation that puts everyone at ease and promotes confidence in the student. Whether a person is an absolute beginner at woodturning or very advanced, having instruction from Bob Rosand will be a very worthwhile experience that you won't forget. Class sizes are very limited so be prepared to sign up early next spring. Further details will be announced in the coming months.

-- John Horn



# Successful SWAT

The 18th annual gathering for the South West Association of Turners, SWAT, swept up its last shavings Sunday, October 18.



The Woodturners of North Texas were well represented in all aspects of SWAT this year - from manning a demonstration room

to serving as SWAT 2-for-1 Raffle Director, Demonstrator Transportation Coordinator, SWAT cashier, Ladies Program coordinators, donors to the Raffle, members displaying their fine turnings in the Instant Gallery, and to hauling all



our club equipment to Wichita Falls, to just name a few aspects of how integrally we were involved in making this a successful symposium. Thank you all for your support!



Our demonstration room featured nationally-known turner and woodworker Michael Mochó as well as regional demon-

strators Gene Kircus and James Johnson. With our new and revamped A/V system, I honestly feel that we, again, provided the best overall room setup at SWAT and we

couldn't have done it without the great volunteers that we had to man the video cameras and switcher box. All the demonstrators commented on how professional we were in the room. Great job!



Just so that you can "pencil it in," the 19th annual SWAT is scheduled for August 20 - 22, 2010 and will be held in Waco.

So, jot it on your schedule now!



## “Bring-Back” Drawing Winners

Don't forget that if you were a winner of any item in the September 2009 drawing, you are obligated to bring a replacement item for the October 2009 “Bring Back” drawing. The rules have changed and you can see the “Making Good Shavings” column in the 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 replacement 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 October meeting.

# ... from the Editor

I attended SWAT October 16-18. This was the first time I had been to a woodturning symposium (I enjoyed the sessions I attended and regretted missing some due to conflicts with other sessions.) Since this was my first time, I decided to take Thursday off and follow Dave Marshall and John Horn to Wichita Falls and help with whatever they needed help with.

We went up on Thursday afternoon. John picked up turners from the airport and I helped Dave prepare the demonstration room and audio/visual equipment. We finished for the night around 8:00pm and Dave, John, and I went to find a place to eat. The first place we tried closed at 8:00pm and the second place was closed as well. We then realized Wichita Falls was small enough that a lot of places close fairly early. We decided to try an Italian restaurant and it was still open. We went in and there was only 1 table being used. We ordered and the food came out in a reasonable amount of time. About ten minutes later, Dave jumped up and rushed over to the other occupied table. He had heard a noise and noticed that something was not right. The diner was apparently choking. Dave pulled him out of the booth and started performing the Heimlich maneuver. The restaurant personnel had noticed a "commotion" and, upon realizing what was happening, called 91. John Horn and I were there to help but there was not much we could do. The diner was turning a dark blue color. Dave kept up the Heimlich maneuver and then we heard some evidence that some air was getting into the diner's lungs. His color started to improve a little so Dave held him up to make sure nothing happened to block his airway

again. Fortunately at that time a fireman came in (it was probably only a couple of minutes since 911 was called - there was a fire station right across the street from the restaurant) and took over from Dave. The fireman performed the Heimlich maneuver a few times to finish the job. By my reckoning, and I believe John will back me up on this, Dave saved that guy's life - first by noticing there was a problem and then by performing the Heimlich maneuver on him. We should all be proud of our club's president and his quick action. I had never been around a situation like that before and I am duly impressed with and proud of Dave. So if you plan on choking on food at any time in the future, inviting Dave to eat with you would be a wise move. And when you see Dave, tell him he "done good."

JVC



TRICK  
OR  
TREAT



It has become a tradition that we ask each of our members to bring two bags of individually wrapped Halloween candy to donate to the R.D. Evans Community Center for their community children's Halloween party that will be held on October 31.

Please remember to bring your candy donation to our next meeting on Thursday, October 29.

## 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.

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 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, John Chandler, 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 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.

**October 29** - Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, R. D. Evans Rec. Center, Demonstrator: **Randy Johnson -- Pen Turning**

**November 3** - WNT Board Meeting

**November 19** - Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, R. D. Evans Rec. Center, Demonstrator: **Fred Denke -- Three Cornered Vessels**

**December 12** - Holiday Banquet 6:30 PM, R. D. Evans Rec. Center

**January 29** - Smithfield Elementary Fine Arts Day, all day, 6 lathes, 48 kids

## 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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