

# Woodturners of North Texas

A CHAPTER OF THE  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

## May 2011 Program:

# Ornamental Turning

by John Herber

### Next Meeting:

Thursday,  
May 26, 2011

Start Time: 6:30 PM

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

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The 2007 spring issue of American Woodturner had three articles relating to Ornamental Turning (OT). These articles inspired me to investigate OT as a possible way to enhance my wood turnings. One of the articles described the construction of a rose engine lathe constructed primarily of medium density fiberboard (MDF). I thought to myself: "That is kind of neat, but it doesn't do all of the things I

would like to do; besides I have a perfectly good mini-lathe. Why should I make one out of MDF? Why don't I just figure out how to make my mini do the job?" So, I proceeded to do just that.

A rose engine lathe works on the principle of a pivoting headstock that is controlled by a cam as it rotates. A rotating cutter cuts a pattern into the work as the work rotates. The resulting shape is controlled by the shape of the cam. The mini did not have a pivoting head stock, so I decided to just pivot the whole lathe. The mini did not have a place to mount the cam, so I created an extension of the spindle shaft on which to mount it. There was no

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President's message

by Dave Marshall

# ... making Good Shavings

This month's column offers you Good Woodturning Practices and Spousal Relationship Advice. A beautiful May it has been. Better than April... for sure (more on that later...). May started off a little on the cool side and now we're dealing with a little mugginess with the warmer temps and higher humidity. But what a great month for turning! We were so fortunate to welcome Cindy Drozda to our club this month. The all-day demo went great and all the classes were successful. I am really looking forward to seeing the plethora of little, delicate finials and small boxes at our meeting this Thursday. Don't disappoint me!

I think one thing we all learned from our Drozda visit was that sharp cutting tools are a necessity to enable one to make those crisp design elements on delicate finials (**Good woodturning practice #1.**) Now, if you were one of the lucky students of Drozda, you -I'm sure of it - completed a nice little project that you took home. Give it to your spouse... now. Class tuition; a day away from home; God knows what new tools

and DVDs you bought before and after the classes, your spouse deserves to have that nice

little box (**Spousal relationship advice #1.**) An unfortunate byproduct of sharp tools are, well, sharp tools. You need to be careful in handling them and working with them (**Good woodturning practice #2.**) And if you are away from home doing a demo at, let's say, Rockler, with a super sharp Lacer skew and that skew just happens to slice across three of your fingers after you just had a doozy of a catch... you probably should just drag your own self to the Emergency Room without bothering your spouse (who is enjoying a wonderfully peaceful, delightful Saturday without you) (**Spousal relationship advice #2.**) If you do bother your spouse on something like this, it could adversely affect a number of factors that might adversely affect (or even - God forbid - negate) your ability to practice woodturning. Plus, she really doesn't want to see all that blood and stuff (**Good woodturning practice #3 and Spousal relationship advice #3.**)

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means to manually rotate the mini, so a rotating mechanism was added. There was no place to mount a rotating cutting tool, so a movable compound platform was added. All of these additions created a rose engine lathe, but I wanted to be able to make spiral cuts and straight cuts(flutes). In order to do these cuts I had to devise a means to couple the translation of the compound to rotate the headstock at a controlled rate to make spiral cuts. Then in order to make a series of complementary spirals, I needed a means to index the work relative to the lead screw of the compound. A means to lock the work in a fixed position while the cutter was translated by the lead screw was added allowing it to make straight flutes. Multiple flutes are then cut by indexing the work in increments. As a result of these additions the mini has approximately doubled in weight and the Herber Hybrid Ornamental Lathe (HHOL) was born.

In my program I will cover some of the history of OT, I will show some pictures of examples of OT (both past and present), and I will demonstrate some of the capabilities of my HHOL.

I have been retired since 1999. I worked in my former life as an electro-mechanical design engineer. I have been a member of WNT since 2002 and I am also a member of Ornamental Turners International (OTI), an AAW chapter of ornamental turners from all across the USA as well as Canada, UK, Australia, Finland, Germany, and New Zealand.



When using the kitchen microwave to dry a number of wet pen blanks, always keep a keen eye on the wood, time and microwave settings (**Good woodturning practice #4.**) I recently had the pleasure to learn this...the hard way. I've done this wood drying technique before without Tracy ever learning of this neat little shop trick. Well the blanks caught fire. Not directly from the microwaving but indirectly when they were sitting there in that plastic bag all wrapped up in a terry cloth rag... which is all sitting in the microwave after a good 5-minute zap on high. I went off to do something else and was alerted to the situation when the kitchen smoke alarm went off. Close call. Unfortunately, she learned of this by way of the smoky smell radiating from the microwave when she got home. By being the great spouse that I am, I assured her that I'd give it a diligent scrubbing with some baking soda and elbow grease and it'll shine up nice and new. I decided to take the easy... I mean, logical path to rid the machine of the not-in-a-rustic-way smoke smell by boiling a cup of water/chlorox in it for few minutes... or ten (**Household cleaning tip #1.**) This doesn't work, at all. It left the entire interior of the machine a light brown color albeit the odor was slightly less noticeable.

**Spousal relationship advice #4:** Never, ever, never...never, never, never (and I can't say this enough) never buy your spouse a new microwave for her 50th birthday. **[Editor's question: Is it a good idea to publish your wife's age in a newsletter?]** Especially,

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don't follow that gift with a new, non-stick skillet (and this was a nice skillet, I'm telling you!). Skillets hurt when they come up-side your head. Well, long story short, I now have a new, slightly used microwave in the shop and Tracy has shopped for her new 50th birthday gift which only cost 550 times the cost of that new – and slight bent – skillet. **Spousal relationship advice #5:** Always be a giving, generous and caring spouse... like me.

**Good woodturning practice #5:** When setting up your woodturning shop or space it is desirable to outfit the space with a small fridge, a smoky microwave, cable TV, cot, AC and heat (depending on the season) and a small stash of food stuffs. So when you are absorbed in your craft or meeting a tight deadline for a customer, you have all the necessities of life readily available to you for the long haul.

**Spousal relationship question #1:** Typically, how long do you all stay in the dog house for situations like these?

**Good woodturning practice #6:** SWAT is right around the corner. I advise that you all try to make it to Waco at the end of August to partake in some great woodturning (and if you're still in the dog house, she'll never even know that you're gone...). The demonstrator list is vast and comprehensive and this symposium is one of the best in the country and it's right in our backyard! Go. You'll learn good stuff. And some of it will be woodturning related.

**Spousal relationship advice #5:** Ask

your significant other to go with you to SWAT. When she initially says no, ask her again. She'll feel good that you want to include her but she'll realize quickly that she'd rather spend that weekend shopping with her friends. Which is exactly what you're going to do, but at SWAT with all the great vendors that are being courted.

**Good woodturning practice #7:** Attend the WNTx meeting this Thursday! We have own John Herber educating us on the intricacies and beauty of ornamental turning. I won't say that this is a dying craft but there aren't many folks out there doing this type of work anymore. It is always fascinating to see the skillset and technology required for this "turning." Come on out and learn for yourself! Plus you'll see some great turnings on the Critique table and possible win a nifty raffle prize. If you happen to win a nice turning from the raffle, give it to your spouse. This is especially true if it's sparkly too (**Spousal relationship advice #1.**)

So, we've come full circle on this advice stuff. It's time to wrap it up and get back to woodturning. Plus I've been a little tired lately. That cot isn't very comfortable. **Good woodturning practice #8:** Get a mattress rather than a cot for the shop. You'll thank me later!

Good shavings to all,

*Dave*



## Cindy Drozda WNT Hands-on Demonstrator for May 2011

The Cindy Drozda demo and classes were a huge success. The all-day demonstration was attended by a good crowd of our



members and people from other clubs as far away as Odessa were there. Since an opportunity like this only comes once a year it always amazes me that we do not have 100% of the club membership attending the all-day demo. When can you see a world class artist demonstrate for a full day for only \$10. If you were unable to attend this year, now would be a good time to make plans for next year's featured demonstrator/instructor. All of the 30 slots for the hands-on classes were filled by WNT members this year. In the past, if our members did not fill all of the spaces available, registration was opened up to anyone that

wanted to take the class. This year we had six alternates from as far away as Houston that wanted to get into a class that was already full of WNT members. The reports I have been getting from those that attended the classes have been very positive. There were classes for those wanting woodturning fundamental instruction to classes for more experienced turners who wanted both technique and design refinement. What better



way is there to learn more about woodturning techniques than to take a class from an experienced, professional turner?



# COUNTDOWN TO SWAT - 92 Days

What: One of the largest woodturning symposium in the world.

When: Friday August 26th thru Sunday August 28th ( only 92 days from the May meeting)

Who: YOU!! New woodturners, Experienced woodturner or just interested in woodturning

Where: Waco, Texas Convention Center. Almost next door.

More Information: <http://www.swaturners.org/jom/>

The largest regional woodturning symposium in the world is coming to your backyard (Waco, Tx.) at the end of August. You should start planing to attend now.

Some highlights are

An Instant Gallery where woodturners (YOU) can feature your work and offer it for sale. A link to the inventory form is at the bottom of [http://www.swaturners.org/jom/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=4&Itemid=19](http://www.swaturners.org/jom/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=4&Itemid=19).

A chance for Special Interests Groups to meet and exchange ideas. Let your local club SWAT rep know of your needs and interests so they can be taken into consideration.

A Two for one raffle. There will be two separate raffles using the same ticket. The Sunday raffle includes 2 full size lathes including 1 Powermatic.

Beads of Courage

Beads of Courage is a nationwide-wide program to provide motivation and encouragement to youngsters by recognizing significant milestones in children's progress through the treatments necessary in their fights against illnesses like cancer, heart disease, burns, etc.

These kids need a place to store their treasure-trove of beads, and that's where you come in. Come to SWAT with as many of your personally turned lidded boxes or flat-work boxes as you can. All these donated boxes will go to the kids after a jury selects the best three. For details go to the SWAT website at <http://www.swaturners.org/jom/>. You can view the full Beads of Courage story at <http://www.beadsofcourage.org/>.

Vendors that sell equipment and supplies to those attending the symposium at very competitive and usually discounted prices

Host Hotels:

Hilton Hotel

113 South University Parks Drive

Rooms \$119 254-754-8484

Marriott Courtyard

101 Washington Ave

rooms \$109 254-752-8686

Last years symposium was the largest to date. If you want to be assure yourself of being within walking distance of the symposium, you should make your reservation early.

More hotels, as well as campgrounds, are listed on the website

# Last Month's Program

Steve Worcester talked about hollowing tools and techniques.

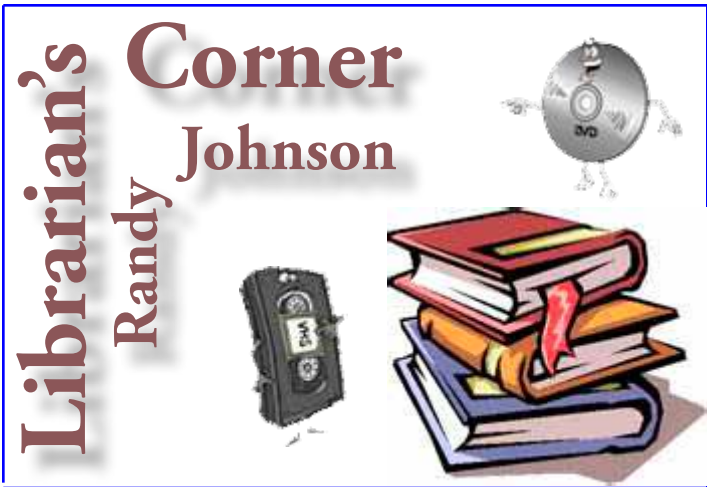


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*Last Month's Program .... (continued from page 7)*







The librarian's break has been extended.



# “Bring-Back” Drawing Winners

Don't forget that if you were a winner of any item in the March 2011 drawing, you are obligated to bring a replacement item for the April 2011 “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.

| Name  | Description |
|-------|-------------|
| ===== | =====       |

If you won a Bring-Back item at the April meeting, please bring one back in May.



## Advertisements

### Anchorseal®

The club has purchased a 55-gallon drum of Anchorseal sealant for green wood and it is available to members for \$12.00 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 web site 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.

Woodcraft offers a 10% discount to current Woodturners of North Texas members. Show your membership card in order to get the discount.



Rockler also offers a 10% discount to current Woodturners of North Texas members. Show your membership card in order to get the discount.

## 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., Fort Worth, Texas. Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at **Tommy's**, 5228 Camp Bowie, north 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 6:30 PM.

**May 26** - Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, R. D. Evans Rec. Center, Demonstrator: **John Herber - Ornamental Turning**

**June 7** - WNT Board Meeting

**June 24-26** - 2011 Symposium - 25th Anniversary. St. Paul, MN

**August 26-28** - 2011 South West Association of Turners, Waco, TX

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**WNT WEB SITE:**

<http://www.wntx.org>

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