

Woodturners of North Texas

A CHAPTER OF THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

July 2011 Program:

Making Jewelry on the Lathe

by Chas Thornhill

Next Meeting:

**Thursday,
July 28, 2011
Start Time: 6:30 PM**

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

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My love of woodturning started innocently enough in early June, 2009, in Ketchikan, Alaska. I was standing in an art gallery shoulder-to-shoulder with dozens of passengers crowded around a display of native crafts. I had probably seen hand-turned bowls at other times in my life, but there in that gallery, I saw bowls

and platters turned from native Alaskan woods and displayed, not as kitchen utensils, but as art. The beautiful lines, rich colors and textures, and exorbitant prices captivated me. And I uttered the words my wife has come to expect in just this sort of situation: "I bet I could make that." When we returned from that cruise, I wasted no time. I dug an old Shopsmith out of mothballs (it was rusting away in a buddy's barn) and cleaned it up. I had

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President's message

by Dave Marshall

... making Good Shavings

Now that we have all settled into the dull routine of summer and have acclimated to those nice, consistent summertime temps, I'm sure that all in our Club are out making mounds of shavings in the shop/garage/driveway/doghouse. Me too! But I must take a few breaks now and then and keep the fluids going non-stop (sometimes I actually drink water)...but it's all in the name of woodturning. We have deadlines coming up that we need to get ready for. SWAT will be here in an instant (raffle projects needed and Instant Gallery pieces needed), Empty Bowls are needed every month, and Beads of Courage boxes and Christmas is right around the corner (turned wood jewelry gifts for the wife and rattles for the babies and ornaments needed for the tree.)

To get started on all these things we need **Inspiration**. And I'm not just talking about the classic rod or whip or deadline to get you going but rather the artistic inspiration that we all need to turn a piece. Whether it is a bowl or platter, kitchen uten-

sil or piece of art...it all starts with inspiration. What made ya do it? A lot of our inspiration comes from the simple "need" of something... you need a pizza cutter, so you make her one. You need a bread bowl, so you make her one; wooden spoon, you make her one; baseball bat...I wouldn't make her one - they hurt. Need to get out of the doghouse? Make her some turned wooden jewelry. So that was easy. Our "needs" drive our inspiration...if it were only that easy. If you are headed to SWAT next month, you may "need" to turn a piece for the Raffle or Instant Gallery. So, the "need" is there but what are you going to turn? You want it to be special, well executed, and have meaning. So what do **you** do for your inspiration?

There are lots of things that can inspire you. We've seen a couple of large, golf tees brought to our meetings. "Sports" can be an inspiration. Golf tees, artistic, creative baseball bats, golf balls (that's a challenge to you), pool cues, etc. Books and

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magazines can be sources of inspiration, but I typically don't go down that route right away. I think there are better sources to get my ideas flowing.

How many of you look to "nature?" Take a walk; look at clouds; envision the bowl in that chunk of wood waiting to escape. Other idea sources can include searches on the internet, but again, I try to avoid that to get truly original and unique inspiration. Religion? Customer needs? Sometimes (especially in these warmer months) I'll head to the museum (they keep them really cool in there) or leaf through "art books" at the cool library. Holidays? We just had July 4th...did any of you turn a patriotic-themed piece? Other art forms and mediums? I like to look at a lot of pottery and ceramics, the old, classic forms, especially Native American, Greek, Italian, and French forms. This month I visited the new glass gallery on Magnolia Street in Fort Worth called SiNaCa. There were a lot of beautiful work and colors. That sort of stuff gets me thinking. Next week, Tanksley and I are headed to Arrowmont. Yeah, I plan to spend a lot of time in the wood-turning shop, but I will definitely make time to visit all the other shops and galleries that reside at Arrowmont. That place should be teeming with inspiration!

Last week, to escape the heat of Fort Worth, Tracy and I headed to one of the coolest places around...Austin. Man oh man, talk about a place to get inspiration. All the neat little

quirky, indie shops, museums, hippies, tattoos on hippies, dreadlocks, BBQ...you get the idea. Inspiration can be found almost everywhere, but you got to look for it. Open your eyes but more importantly, open your mind. When "it" hits you, go to the shop and work on it. You may not get the results you want right away, so you keep working on it for a while. Try different methods; experiment (experimentation...another great source for inspiration!); deviate (no James, not deviant).

So, now that I have "inspired" you, you need to come up with some inspiration for our Empty Bowls project. Turn a cool bowl and donate it this month. Please help those in need in our community. It takes so little effort on our part to turn a bowl or platter which then brings in premium dollars to the Tarrant Area Food Bank. You wouldn't believe how many people are fed by our bowl donations

Finally, please be inspired to attend SWAT (<http://www.swaturners.org/>). The Instant Gallery and all of the demonstrations are great sources of inspiration. Early SWAT registration is now closed but you can still register and attend. SWAT is August 26 through the 28 in Waco.

Good Shavings to all of you,

Dave



never used it as a lathe before, so I had to find all the parts to make it serve that purpose. I recognized that I had no idea what to do. So I looked online for a class and found one scheduled at the Woodcraft store in Addison. It was to be taught by a fellow by the name of John Horn. You might know him.

I took his class and discovered in those few Thursday evenings a new and somewhat addictive art form that suited my particular aptitude for creativity, design, and motor skills. In the two years since (August 2011 will be my 2nd woodturning anniversary) I have covered a lot of ground.

Soaking up woodturning and everything that goes into it became my main objective. I pestered John constantly with photos of my latest attempts and questions about this or that technique, finish, or tool. To his credit, he never stopped taking my phone calls.

One day, I was at his house to learn the finer points of making an interior finishing cut with the Ellsworth Signature gouge. During a break in the action, John showed me some earrings he made on the lathe. I was impressed by the elegance of the simple drop design and the exot-

ic wood. I had to try that myself. Over the months, I turned many beads, pendants, medallions, and little things I call talismans. I found that wood leftover from turning pens, bowls and other larger items did not necessarily have to go into the trash. They were likely candidates for pendants, earrings, broaches, crosses, and lots of other objects that both conserved the wood and improved my turning skills at the same time.

I discovered that as long as I was comfortable working small and near the headstock or chuck, I could convert leftovers into great little gifts or (as I found out later) a little extra income.

I will demonstrate for you how I create beads, pendants, and, if we have time, I'll turn a small cross. Since I am still relatively new to woodturning and don't profess to know the "right way" to do everything, I don't consider this a class. It is simply a demonstration of how I make the pieces and a few tips and tricks for turning them into simple, yet functional necklaces and earrings.



COUNTDOWN TO SWAT - 29 Days

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

When: Friday August 26th thru Sunday August 28th (only 29 days from the July 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.

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

Glynn Cox, John Horn, Jim Tanksley, and Dave Marshall gave demonstrations and passed on pointers for sharpening tools.



Librarian's Corner

Randy Johnson



Classified Ads

I have two pen blank cabinets for sale. They have 5 drawers each. They are not pretty, but they do work great. \$15 each. Email me, Larry Sweeney, at sweeney_larry@hotmail.com. I can bring them to the meeting if someone needs to see them.



Die Urlaub des Bibliothekars ist erweitert worden.

“Bring-Back” Drawing Winners

Don't forget that if you were a winner of any item in the June 2011 drawing, you are obligated to bring a replacement item for the July 2011 “Bring Back” drawing. 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.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Description</u>
Jim McGregor	Turning Wood
Richard Gauthier	Birdhouse
Larry Sweeney	Pen Blank
Jim Humphrey	Razor
John Lauderbaugh	Pen
Matt Rabe	Saucer



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 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, John Chandler (email vannchan@att.net) by the 10th of the month. Also, if you decide to cancel an ad, please notify the editor by the 10th 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.

July 28 - Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, R. D. Evans Rec. Center, Demonstrator: **Chas Thornhill - Making Jewelry on the Lathe**

August 2 - WNT Board Meeting

August 18 - Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, R. D. Evans Rec. Center, Demonstrator: **Tom Lohr - Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Abrasives**

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

September 6 - WNT Board Meeting

September 24,25 - **RISE End of Summer Bash for the Handicapped**
WNT Club members turn tops for the children

September 29 - Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, R. D. Evans Rec. Center, Demonstrator: **John Solberg - Offset Turning Ducks**

October 1 - **Haltom City Arts Festival**
WNT club member demos and craft sale

October 4 - WNT Board Meeting

October 8 - **WNT Annual picnic**
Dr. Jimmie Gill's residence

Board of Directors

President – Dave Marshall

Home phone 817-738-6815

Vice President – Sandy Jarrell

Home Phone 817-732-2916

Past President – Stormy Boudreaux

Home Phone 817-441-9238

Treasurer - James Haynes

Cell Phone 214-502-9970

Librarian – Randy Johnson

Home Phone 817-795-6018

Activities – John Horn

Home Phone 817-485-7397

Newsletter – John Chandler

Cell Phone 817-201-5501

Secretary – Fred Denke

Home Phone 817-292-3479

WNT WEB SITE:

<http://www.wntx.org>

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