

# Woodturners of North Texas

A Chapter of the  
American Association of Woodturners

## September 2014 Program

# Christmas Trees and Snowmen

by Jim Tanksley

### Next Meeting:

Thursday,  
September 25, 2014  
Start Time: 6:30 PM

Handley-Meadowbrook Lions  
Club  
6013 Craig Street  
Fort Worth, TX

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I have been a member of the Wood Turners of North Texas since 2005. I was impressed from the first meeting on the willingness of members to share techniques and tips with other members. I started on a Jet Mini Lathe and quickly moved up to Nova 3000 with 16" capacity over the lathe bed. It had a 2hp, reversible, variable speed motor, and a swivel head. Not long after I bought it from another member, I hit the reverse switch while it was going forward and twisted off the shaft. That was a \$600 lesson. I ended up selling the Nova to another club member and bought a Powermatic 3520B with an 18" extension. I love the Powermatic and can turn up to 20" over the Lathe Bed and 38" off the end with a face plate. I mainly turn medium to large Mesquite vessels and bowls with natural edges but have turned many different woods, sizes, and shapes. I even



*continued on page 3*

... making  
Good  
Shavings

- I am in Panama
- Be safe and I will not see you Thursday.

**GLYNN COX**



turn an occasional pen for friend or as a conversation piece to market my other turnings.

Several years back the club had a demo on Snowmen. I thought they looked fun and starting making them in October for the Christmas season. While making the Snowmen out of Mesquite, I got the idea of using Mesquite to make Christmas Trees. The first ones I turned were just cone shaped turned from a log between centers. I liked the way the yellow sap ring in the wood looked like snow on the branches. After some experimenting I came up with a design which has consistent sap rings on one side of the Christmas Tree. Come out on Thursday September 25th and learn how it's done.



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## Who's Up For A Challenge?

Y'all brought in some beautiful vases for the challenge last month. I really enjoy seeing the different styles and techniques that are used to achieve the same goal. I learn something different at each challenge, and will steal some of those techniques to use in the future.

This was the second month for the new challenge program with quarterly awards. 19 members brought vases with several members turning more than one vase. Turnout is getting better with each meeting. I don't want to discourage members from turning more than one challenge piece, but do want to remind everyone that no matter how many pieces a member brings for a challenge, they only get one raffle ticket per challenge.

Below is a list of members submitting vases for August's challenge.

1. Tom Beatty
2. Josh Boaz
3. David Baulch
4. Ken Cardin
5. Glynn Cox
6. Fred Denke
7. Jimmy Gill
8. Gary Futowa
9. Rick Gauthier
10. Bill Holt

*continued on page 4*

Who's Up For A Challenge?... (continued from previous page)

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 11. John Horn          | 12. Ron Howe         |
| 13. Kenneth Kilpatrick | 14. John Lauderbaugh |
| 15. Ray Moyer          | 16. Ronnie Nuzum     |
| 17. Jim Sturdevant     | 18. Pam Thompson     |
| 19. Bob Wiggins        |                      |

The challenge for September is to turn a peppermill. The great demo that Dr. Gill did should be a good start for anyone needing some tips on peppermills. His peppermills have great design and his finishing technique was easy and beautiful. Good job Doc.

I turned my first peppermill last week. It was one of the small kits that I had bought sometime back. It turned out ok, but I hope to find time to turn a large one before the meeting.

We will be having our first prize drawing for the challenge participants at this months meeting. The drawing will be right after the challenge presentation. So turn a peppermill and get in on the fun.

See you at the meeting Thursday.

Bob Wiggins



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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**  
**TELL YOUR WIFE**  
**WNT CHRISTMAS BANQUET**  
**DECEMBER 13, 2014**

**Thanks**  
**James**

# RISE ADVENTURE

On September 13th 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. Together we turned and distributed tops to children that attended the event.

Eleven members of the WNT participated by turning and interacting with the children.

Those who participated in the event were, Gary Adam, David Baulch, Larry Denning, Steve DiCarlo, John Horn, Ron Howe, Bob Igel, Ray Moyer, Jeff Robbins, Ray Schiller, and Bob Wiggins.

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 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 all of the 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



# RISE ADVENTURE PICTURES



# Last Month's program

Last month's program was Peppermills by Jimmie Gill.







# The Art of the Dry-Bud Vase

Joshua Friend

A simple and elegant way to bring nature into your home is to display dried flowers in vases. What we generally consider weeds often produce beautiful flowers that can be found growing wild. A dry-bud vase is also known as a weed pot.

At first glance, these vases may look like small-scale hollow turnings, but this project employs a hole drilled from the tailstock into the wood. As the name implies, the dry-bud vase is not intended to hold water, although it is possible to purchase a glass tube to fit into the vase for that purpose.

This straightforward project is ideal for practicing basic skills: rough turning from square to round, forming a tenon, using a four-jaw chuck, drilling with the tailstock, and shaping a design.

## Getting started

Just about any species of wood can be used, so long as it is sufficiently dried. Using green (unseasoned) wood for this project is not ideal; the wood might crack as it dries. To choose the size of your blank, imagine how tall you want the vase to be and how wide at its widest point. Cut your blank slightly larger than these dimensions and add about 3" (8cm) to its length so you won't be working uncomfortably

close to the chuck when you part the vase off the lathe.

Mount the wood onto the lathe between centers and rough it to round (*Photo 1*). Form a tenon on the tailstock end, sized to fit your chuck (*Photo 2*). The shoulder of the tenon should rest on the top of the jaws and its length short enough not to bottom out in the chuck.

Using the tailstock for support, cut across the endgrain at the tailstock end to achieve a clean cut (*Photo 3*). A small bowl gouge works well because it offers easy bevel support for the cut, but you may prefer a spindle gouge or skew chisel. With the tailstock in place, you will not be able to cut all the way to the center. Cut as far as you can, remove the tailstock, and gently finish cleaning up the endgrain (*Photo 4*). Working this far away from the chuck without tailstock support is likely to produce vibration, and a catch could pull the piece out of the chuck. It is essential to use a sharp tool and only take light cuts. Using a skew chisel, make a small indentation in the center of the cylinder.

## Drilling with the tailstock

It is useful to have a Jacobs chuck that fits into your lathe's tailstock, which will ensure the hole is on center



and parallel with the workpiece. If you purchase a chuck, make sure its Morse taper fits into the quill of your tailstock. See sidebar for instructions on how to safely secure a Jacobs chuck in the quill.

Slide the Jacobs chuck into the quill and chuck a  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (10mm) drill bit. Bring the tailstock up so the drill bit is almost touching the wood and lock the tailstock. The same general rules apply for drilling here as in other drilling situations, except the wood is spinning and the drill bit is not. The larger the bit, the slower the wood should be spinning. Back the drill bit out often to clear the chips, being sure to hold onto the Jacobs chuck if it has not been secured in the quill.

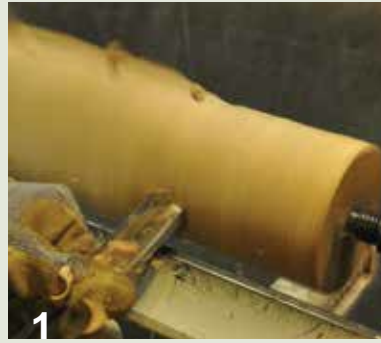
Turn the quill wheel to advance the drill bit into the spinning wood (*Photo 5*). The depth of your hole will depend on the height of your bud vase, but leave about 1" (25mm) thickness at the bottom so you don't end up with a hole in the vase after parting it off the lathe.

### Shaping your bud vase

At the entry point of the hole, cut a gentle slope so the curve flows into the drilled hole. With the Jacobs chuck removed and the tailstock out of the way, use a small bowl gouge to take gentle, light cuts toward and into the hole (*Photo 6*). You will be cutting against the grain; if the wood does not cut cleanly, switch to a small round-nose scraper and lightly cut from the center toward the rim, with the grain. Use a small piece of rolled-up abrasive to clean up any frayed fibers around the hole (*Photo 7*).

The overall proportions of your vase are a matter of preference. I favor a narrow neck that flares at the top. Before starting to shape your vase, use the tailstock with a cone center for support.

To remove a lot of wood quickly from a cylinder, make a peeling cut with a skew chisel (*Photo 8*). It is easier to learn this cut using a small ▶



1 Rough the bud vase into a cylinder.



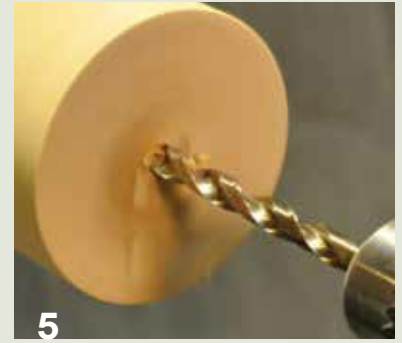
2 Form a tenon, sized to fit your chuck.



3 Cut across the endgrain to achieve a clean cut.



4 Remove the tailstock support and clean up the remaining area, taking light cuts. Establish a center point using a skew chisel.



5 A Jacobs chuck in the tailstock is an easy and accurate way to drill on the lathe (see sidebar for safety note).



6 Refine the mouth of the vase using a sharp bowl gouge with light cuts.



7 Sand the opening to soften the opening of the hole.



8 A peeling cut is useful for removing material quickly.



9



10



11

Form a bead at the top of the vase. A revolving cone center makes turning and blending the bead into the hole easy.



12

Add a distinct transition between the bead and the neck of the vase.



13

Temporarily remove the cone center and finish refining the opening of the vase using light cuts.



14



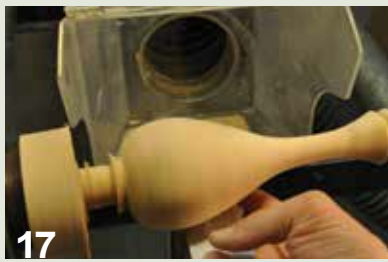
15

A small spindle-roughing gouge works well for shaping long curves. Cut in a downhill direction to go with the grain of the wood.



16

A spindle or detail gouge is best for getting into tight spaces and clearing away excess wood to give yourself room to work.



17

Sand the vase. Apply finish next if finishing on the lathe.



18

Make final cuts on the foot giving it a concave surface. Use a small handsaw to cut the vase off the lathe. Hand-finish the bottom.

skew chisel than a wide one, which requires a heavier cut. The peeling cut is similar to that of a parting tool. With the handle down and just the bevel lightly touching the cylinder, ease the cutting edge into the wood by simultaneously lifting the handle up while pushing the cutting edge toward the center axis. This motion helps to keep the cutting action just under the surface of the wood as the diameter is being reduced. It may help to imagine peeling the skin off an apple with a knife to visualize the dynamics of this cut.

When the flare of the neck is at a pleasing length and diameter, add a bead at the top of the vase. Visualize where the center of the bead will be and start your spindle gouge in that location with the flute wide open (facing you). Lift the handle slowly until the cutting edge engages and the bevel is rubbing. Twist the tool clockwise to begin forming the bead. To form the left side of the bead, make the same cut, but twist the tool counterclockwise (Photos 9, 10, 11). It may be necessary to make repeated cuts to refine the smoothness of the bead.

To make a distinct transition between the bead and the lower part of the vase, add an angular cut leading to the base of the bead (Photo 12). One final step before shaping the neck and lower body of the vase is to refine the top of the bead so it blends smoothly into the slope at the top of the vase. With the tailstock out of the way, make light cuts (Photo 13). Or, you may even want to use abrasives.

Using the cone center for support, begin to shape and refine the neck and body of the vase. A small spindle-roughing gouge offers plenty of control on long gradual curves. Cut from larger to smaller diameter (Photos 14, 15). There is a hole drilled into the neck, so leave enough wall

Recently, I was drilling a hole into the end of a cylinder using a Jacobs chuck mounted in the tailstock. Normally, I hold onto the Jacobs chuck when I drill so its Morse taper will not pull out of the tailstock. Morse tapers are not designed to pull, they push.

As I backed the drill bit out of the wood, my failure to hold onto the Jacobs chuck caused the Morse taper to come out of the tailstock quill. The drill bit caught the turning and threw it to the floor, bending and ruining the drill bit in the process. It could have been much worse if I had been using a large Forstner-style drill bit, drilling into endgrain. I might have personally suffered the consequences.

I posted a photo of the bent drill on the WoodCentral online forum and received several good suggestions; the best was Lyle

Jamieson's. He drilled the quill on his tailstock and then drilled a matching shallow hole in the Jacobs chuck's Morse taper into which he inserted a pin so the drill chuck does not come loose or spin. It was a great idea that I took one step further.

I drilled a hole into the quill and tapped it with a 1/4x 28 tap. I cleaned up the burr on the inside with 220-grit abrasive wrapped around a pencil. I inserted the Jacobs chuck into the quill and marked the location of the hole. Using a Dremel with a cutoff wheel, I ground a rectangular flat onto the Jacobs chuck's Morse taper and threaded a short setscrew into the hole. (The setscrew needs to be shorter than the wall thickness of the quill.) Now all I have to do is insert the Jacobs chuck and tighten the setscrew and the chuck does not spin or pull out.

— John Lucas



(Left) Bent drill bit

(Below) While drilling holes, a setscrew safely keeps the Morse taper of a Jacobs chuck in the quill of the tailstock.



thickness for its final diameter—in this case, no smaller than  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (20mm). Use calipers to check your progress.

When you begin shaping the bottom of the vase, it may be helpful to remove some material. Take a peeling cut using a parting tool or skew chisel to provide more room to work. Leave extra wood between the bottom of the vase and the chuck to act as a buffer between your tool, your hand, and the chuck. In this tight space, use a small spindle or detail gouge (Photo 16).

### Sanding and parting off

Sand the vase (Photo 17). If you are going to apply a finish on the lathe, do so now; however, I typically apply a spray varnish or lacquer after the vase is off the lathe.

Use a parting tool to reduce the waste wood. Slightly undercut

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the foot to ensure the vase will sit flat on a table, which can be accomplished by lightly angling a parting tool to the right and using its top edge to cut the wood (Photo 18). With the lathe off, use a fine-tooth saw to cut the vase off the lathe. Carve the nub off by hand and sand the bottom smooth. Apply finish to the unfinished area.

All that is left to do now is find some attention-grabbing flowers to display and surprise that special person with your handmade bud vase.

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*Joshua Friend, woodturner and writer, is a member of the Nutmeg Woodturners League in Connecticut.*

*See [jfriendwoodworks.com](http://jfriendwoodworks.com) for examples of his work and*





# EMPTY BOWLS 2014 TURN-A-BOWL-A-MONTH

Turner's Name	Apr 2014	May 2014	Jun 2014	Jul 2014	Aug 2014	Sep 2014	Oct 2014	Nov 2014	Dec 2014	Jan 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2015	Total	Group Subtotal
<b>Bowl Of Month Member</b>														
Sandy Jarrell	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	
Glynn Cox	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	
Ray Moyer	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	
John Lauderbaugh	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Ronnie Nuzum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Jim McGregor	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Jim Sturdevant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Bill Boehme	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tommy Schutz	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Betty Banfield	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Gary Futoma	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Tim Preedy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Don York	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Dave Marshall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Bob Wiggins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
<b>Not Bowl Of Month Member</b>														
Robert Richards	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Rick Gauthier	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Jimmie Gill	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	
Ron Traylor	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Bob Clark	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
John Beasley	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	
Bill Holt	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Paul Tiefel	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
<b>Grand Total</b>	3	3	5	14	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	



# Mentors

Name	City	Specialty
Beasley, John	Denton,	General turning, Bowls
Boehme, Billy	Arlington	General turning, Bowls
Brand, Neal	Denton	Spindles, Hand-chased threads, Boxes
Clowers, Wayne	Haltom City	Bowls, Pens, Lidded vessels, Segmented
Cox, Glynn	Keller	General turning, Tool making
Denke, Fred	Fort Worth	Bowls, Surface decoration, Inlay
Derczo, Johnny	Mansfield	Segmented
Gill, Jimmie	Haltom City	General turning, Bowls
Horn, John	North Richland Hills	Fundamentals. Spindles, Bowls, Sharpening
Jarrell, Sandy	Fort Worth	General turning, Bowls
Lauderbaugh, John	North Richland Hills	Peppermills, Snowmen, Pens, Sharpening
Marshall, Dave	Fort Worth	General turning
Moyer, Ray	Eules	Spindles, Boxes, Basics
Placido, Bob	Azle	Bowls, Inlays, Segmented, Boxes, Goblets, Inside-out. Tops
Roberts, Larry	Arlington	Basics, Natural Edge Vessels
Rost, Steve	Mansfield	Segmented
Solberg, John	Denton	Multi-axis, Ornaments, Bowls, Pens, Tops
Tanksley, Jim	Mansfield	End grain bowls, Hollowing
Taylor, Max	Fort Worth	General turning, Pens, Bowls
Thornhill, Chas	Frisco	General Turning
Tiefel, Paul	Southlake	Multi-axis, Hollow forms, Bowls, Coring
Tkacs, Peter	Denton	General turning, Peppermills
Wiggins, Bob	Arlington	Bowls

## Advertisements

### Anchorseal®

The club has purchased a 55-gallon drum of Anchorseal sealant for green wood and it is available to members for \$10.00 per gallon. It can be purchased at club meetings and at other times is being stored at Bob Clark's place, 1201 McClendon Road, in Weatherford, TX. 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 (email [yannchan@att.net](mailto:yannchan@att.net)) by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month. Also, if you decide to cancel an ad, please notify the editor (have you spotted the trend yet?) by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Wood World offers a 10% discount to current Woodturners of North Texas members.

<http://www.woodworldtx.com/>



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

Woodcraft 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 Handley-Meadowbrook Lions Club, 6013 Craig Street, Fort Worth, TX. Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at **Niki's Italian Bistro**, 5237 Davis Blvd. (FM1938) in North Richland Hills. 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.

**September 25** - Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, Lions Club  
Demonstrator: Jim Tanksley - **Christmas Trees and Snowmen**

**October 7**- WNT Board Meeting

**October 30** - Open Shop 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM, Lions Club

**October 30** - Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, Lions Club,  
Demonstrator: Glynn Cox - **Hollow Christmas Ornaments w/long Finials**

**November 4**- WNT Board Meeting

**November 20** - Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, Lions Club,  
Demonstrator: Janice Levi - **Jewelry Made Easy**

**December 2**- WNT Board Meeting

**December 13** - **Christmas Banquet, 5:00 PM**, Lions Club

## Board of Directors

**President - Glynn Cox**

Home phone 817-337-0210

**Vice President - Bob Wiggins**

Cell Phone 917-690-7131

**Past President - Dave Marshall**

Cell Phone 817-229-9676

**Treasurer - James Haynes**

Cell Phone 214-502-9970

**Librarian - Randy Johnson**

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**Activities - John Horn**

Home Phone 817-485-7397

**Newsletter - John Chandler**

Home Phone 817-292-9978

**Secretary - Tom Beatty**

Cell Phone 817-919-6685

**Audio-Visual - Bob Clark**

Cell Phone 817-304-3318

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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