

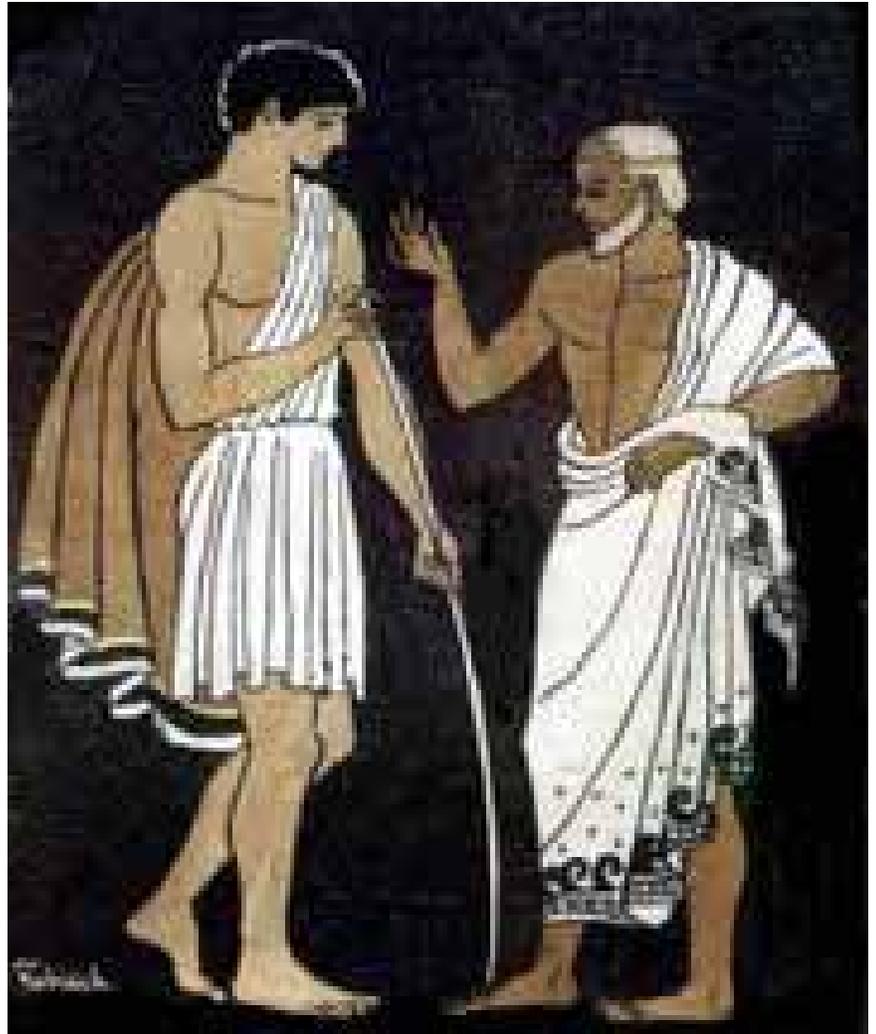
Northwest Washington Woodturners Association Monthly Newsletter

Feb 2007



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Mentor: n. [from Mentor the friend and counselor of Odysseus and Telemachus] A wise and faithful counselor.

Business Page:

Meeting Minutes:

Coming Up

Sunday March 4th: Special meeting with Stuart Mortimer demonstrating. He is the premier spiral turner. \$10 at the door. This will be great.

Monday March 5th: All day class with Stuart Mortimer at Gerrit's shop, \$125. BYO lunch.

Thursday Regular Meeting March 15th: Jim Christiansen will demonstrate making a pedestal box.

March 16th & 17th: Two day class with Jim Christiansen. This session will focus on design and critique. There is still one space available for the class. Cost - \$175.00

April 26th meeting: John Magil will demo the Rose Lathe as featured in the latest issue of the AAW Journal. This will also be a mentoring session

May 17th Meeting: Dave Schwitzer—Natural edge bowls, platters and coring tool demo.

Oct 18th Meeting: Christian Buchard will demo. Details of the class session with Christian to follow.

Meeting Notes

This was a mentoring meeting and Julian has asked that we e-mail suggestions and ideas to him for our next mentoring meeting. I personally would like to see someone build a jam chuck set up. Everyone wants to know something so please let Julian know so he can get your wishes into our meetings.

This is what was demonstrated this meeting.

Lucinda Van Valkenburg demonstrated the Bonnie Klein thread cutting jig and it always looks so easy when she does anything.

Jan Garlington showed us pen turning which was new to me. Thanks Jan.

Jerry Holms did laser guided, blind, deep hollowing with a set-up that Ron Grant built. There is a lot for us new turners to look forward to learning.

Dave Blair was teaching tool sharpening again and we always benefit from his expertise.

***Deadline for submitting
info to the Newsletter:***

**The first of the
month after the last
meeting**

*Contact Dennis Shinn with
your submission:*

360-854-9909

hdshinn@eskimo.com

!Raffle Wood!

Our wood raffle is an important source of income for the club. Please bring any surplus you can scrounge up but try to limit it to something you would enjoy turning yourself.

Next Meeting
March 16

Club Contacts:

Julian Lee - President
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Ron Grant - Vice President
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nwwnewsletter@anatechsys.com

Rick also brought his great new Nova DVR-XP so that we could all see it in action. Thank You. Julian put a truly gnarly big piece of Holly in it and it performed beautifully.

Our Jet Minis are now graced by jewelry boxes made and donated by Julian. No more being misplaced or just un-handly. Thank You Julian.

Club Business

Julian is applying for a grant to begin a kids turning class. It would be once a week for 4 weeks and about 20 volunteers are needed. It will be at the Hillcrest Lodge and has Parks Department support. E-mail Julian if you are interested in volunteering, this sounds like fun.

There was discussion of replacing the current 475lb Jet lathe with the 200lb slightly more powerful Nova DVR-XP. As there are seldom enough people arriving at meetings early enough to help wrestle the Jet out of the trailer and set it up. Discussion followed with the pros and cons and costs presented. A motion to make the purchase was made by John Novak seconded by Dennis Shinn. This was put to a vote with 60 members voting for and 4 voting against. At the close of the meeting Jim Short offered to purchase the Jet lathe.

Gallery

George Way and John Gruenwald did such a fine job this month. George also outlined the four stages of our turning education:

- 1. Unconsciously Incompetent – We are having fun and are just happy to be turning ANYTHING.*
- 2. Consciously Incompetent – It's a train wreck. We've found out how much there is to learn and how little we know. Time to take those classes, come to meetings, ask questions and "turn till you drop".*
- 3. Consciously Competent – We have learned so much and are doing good work but still have to think about it constantly.*
- 4. Unconsciously Competent – This is where we want to be, turning wonderful things as naturally as breathing.*

Secretary, Shirley Butters

Editor's Note

Before moving to this area I was a member of the Seattle turning club for a brief period. Now as then, as a novice turner I'm grateful for the chance to 'rub elbows' with the many accomplished turners who so willingly give of their time to help us advance along the stages of competency George Way described during his presentation of the gallery. But—we as novices have a responsibility as well. If we are to benefit from sessions like our past meeting, the mentoring session, we have to make our needs known to those who would provide the support we need or want.

The last issue of Woodturning Design had a guest editorial by Mike Darlow. He was critical of demonstrations promoting so-called advanced techniques while noting that the majority of attendees at such demos were novice turners. His thesis was, in my view, that demonstrations should be addressing the needs of those new to the craft rather than attempting to overpower newcomers with the 'wow' factor.

I'm not suggesting we as a club should not attempt to attract the type of world class turners Gerret has managed to procure thus far. Far be it. It's imperative we see the masters at work. My focus here is on our meetings that are geared towards in-house support. Meetings where the agenda reads "Mentoring Session". That's the clarion call to all of us who would like some help with one thing or another.

We have, right here in our club, a wealth of turning expertise. I would hazard a guess that no matter what problem you might have at the lathe, it could and will be answered by one, probably many of the more accomplished member turners. But if the question isn't asked, you'll never get an answer.

As Julian noted, we are a volunteer organization. If you've only just turned your first piece of wood round, or if even if you don't yet own a lathe, as a member your obligation is to volunteer as well; you volunteer your questions and problems. I think you'll find the membership at large thrives on problem solving.

So now it's your turn!

Dennis Shinn

Gallery Submission:

Name: _____

Wood: _____

Finish: _____

Size (wxh): _____

Please print the above form to accompany your meeting gallery submission. One form for each item would be appreciated. Thanks!!

February:

What does Greek mythology have to do with wood turning? I've often wondered what *Mentor* meant so I looked it up on Wikipedia.

In Greek mythology, Mentor was the son of Alcumus and, in his old age, a friend of Odysseus. When Odysseus left for the Trojan War he placed Mentor in charge of his son, Telemachus, and of his palace. When Athena visited Telemachus she took the disguise of Mentor to hide herself from the suitors of Telemachus' mother Penelope. (See Odyssey Book II, lines 255 and 268.) When Odysseus returns to Ithaca, Athena (in the form of Mentor) takes the form of a swallow and the suitors' arrows have no effect on him.

The first recorded modern usage of the term can be traced to a book entitled "Les Aventures de Telemaque", by the French writer François Fénelon. In the book the lead character is that of Mentor. This book was published in 1699 and was very popular during the 18th century and the modern application of the term can be traced to this publication.

This is the source of the modern use of the word mentor: a trusted friend, counselor or teacher, usually a more experienced person. Some professions have "mentoring programs" in which newcomers are paired with more experienced people in order to obtain good examples and advice as they advance, and schools sometimes have mentoring programs for new students or students who are having difficulties.

Today mentors provide their expertise to less experienced individuals in order to help them advance their careers, enhance their education, and build their networks.

Mentoring Meeting



Jerry Holmes demonstrating deep hollowing

Where can you go on a regular basis to see accomplished woodturners demonstrating techniques you'd like to explore? Who do you ask questions about tool technique, finishing, workholding and other aspects of turning? Where can we find constructive feedback on form and design to help us reach the next rung in the *four stages of turning education*?

Easy. At your local turning club. Northwest Washington Woodturners, *our* local turning club is a great example. This past month, the February meeting was indicative of how much one can learn in a few hours spent not only watching but doing with the guidance of a *Mentor*.

Now that we know what a Mentor is we should look forward to those periodic sessions that provide this unique opportunity for learning. But to make them even more meaningful we should provide our input as to what we'd like to. Or make known the aspects of turning for which we'd like assistance. It's to our advantage in the long run if we're to become *unconsciously competent!*



Chasing Threads

Boxes with screw-on lids are unique items. Cutting, or as it's called 'chasing' threads freehand can be challenging. At a recent club meeting we were shown how, using simple shop made tools, to chase threads. Even with practice it takes quite a bit of patience and control.

Lucinda Van Valkenburg demonstrated thread cutting with the Bonnie Klein thread cutting tools. This clever setup uses a small, toothed cutting wheel running in the headstock to create threads as the workpiece is advanced while being held and rotated by a fixture mounted on the lathe bed.

This device may be a bit costly for the one or two items the average hobby turner would want to attempt. However for longer runs of easily duplicated pieces it would no doubt prove cost effective. The advantage I see to using this tool would be the ease with which the thread pitch could be changed. It would require a bit of metal working know-how perhaps to make additional lead screws for the lathe mounted fixture but I can envision even cutting square or acme threads with this type lathe accessory.

If you'd like more information go to Bonnie's web page:

<http://www.bonnieklein.com/tjig.htm>





Get (a better) Grip

Many turners are turning, you might say, to surface enhancement, carving and other off-lathe techniques to create stylized pieces. How to hold onto the workpiece while doing so can be difficult and frustrating. This fixture provides one answer.

George Way looks on as Paul Anderson explains the flexibility and control of the carving hold down designed and marketed by Trent Bosch.



Hollowing Big Time

Jerry Holmes' large hollow forms frequently attract attention in our monthly gallery. His work was also recognized at the last Annual West Coast Woodturning Competition. We were fortunate to have Jerry at the meeting to help demystify the process of deep, thin walled hollowing.

Jerry's setup includes the hollowing tool illustrated left below along with a simple laser pointer attached to an overhanging arm. The laser is offset from the cutting edge of the tool to the desired wall thickness. Thus it provides a guide to the tool edge location while cutting 'blind' inside the workpiece.



The key to getting it right: the cutting edge of the hollowing tool must be at exact lathe center and the entire tool setup must be parallel to the lathe bed. Jerry makes it look pretty simple and with the appropriate tools and setup there's much more control when hanging that far over the tool rest. The laser beam guide provides great feedback for wall thickness.

Not only is Jan Garlington a whiz at web page design, (she's our club web site author and manager), she's a great pen turner as well. Pen turning requires a lot of patience and a steady hand. She helped encourage several people to give it a try.



Pen Turning



My sincerest apologies to Dave Blaire for not getting at least a couple shots of his sharpening instructions. I've watched Dave at many of the other mentor meeting sessions and profited from his advice. I certainly don't want to diminish his contributions to our ongoing learning program.

Now it's your turn

No doubt there are other beginning, novice, intermediate, ... call us what you will ..., turners who run up against a brick wall at some point or the other. Perhaps we've found a solution to our problem, often not. Two things we should pursue: is our solution to the problem, if we found one, the best or most effective? And second, if we haven't found a solution, let's get busy and find one.

The easiest way in both cases is to bring the issue to the meeting. Especially a mentor meeting session. Bring it to the attention of one of the club members working at a lathe. Chances are there are more than a few of us who are facing a similar challenge or problem. By posing your question or presenting your problem with an audience, we all learn.

Did you know:

Possibly the earliest pictorial representation of lathe work is an Egyptian stone carving that has been dated ca.300BC. Other artifacts have been discovered dating to as early as the 7th century BC that bear distinctive markings indicating they had been turned in some manner.

Miscellaneous notes:

Youth Outreach

We have a unique opportunity here, folks. A chance to get young people interested in the art & craft of turning and perhaps generate some funds for the club in the process.

President Julian Lee asked for some assistance with a youth outreach program idea he's been developing. What's needed is someone to manage it. Julian has the details of what's involved so if you're interested, please drop him an email at groundwk@earthlink.net and let him know you're interested. There will be additional members needed to fill instructional spots as well so don't be shy. This will be primarily basic tool use and technique.

Targo Woods sale:

The city of Bellingham is in the process of redeveloping the property where Targo Woods is located. They haven't moved yet but will soon. As a result of having to move, their inventory is rather slim, if you can call a building of about 1,000sf packed with lumber of all sorts slim.

They have some marvelous turning blocks, burls, slabs...stuff lying all over. I'm sorry I can't speak to how, or if their prices compare with other sources. I just thought I'd pass the information along. Perhaps someone closer in the Bellingham area could pay them a visit and let us know. If there are some truly good buys on turning blanks of exotics we'd like to pass the information on to the rest of the club.

Windsor Plywood:

These folks have a table loaded with nice exotic turning blanks. This is not for the timid budget I'm afraid but there is some gorgeous stuff there in limited quantities. They're in Bellingham as well, a few blocks east off the freeway on Iowa street

Featured Turner



Copied from Ron's web page with no permission whatsoever.

Woodworking has been in my blood since high school shop, but the turning of objects on a wood lathe didn't grab my full attention until 1995.

Segmented woodturning became my primary interest only a few years ago. More recently I've wanted to find new expressions in the textures and surfaces of my segmented designs and this has led me into an entirely strange world of artistic sand-carving.

Like blazing a new trail, a heretofore-undeveloped methodology developed, but the expectations of

something new and interesting in surface relief made the experimentation entirely enjoyable. Here I was using other mechanical systems entirely foreign to the practice of shaping and creating on the lathe. Over the course of many months I finally developed new techniques that allow me to sand carve these images into the wood of my bowls. From the beginning, I found inspiration in Southwest Indian pottery designs for my work because pottery shapes go hand in hand with similar



Three footed cherry bowl



Herron

bowl shapes produced in woodturning. The Indian designs of that region always fascinated me. These are not copies of pottery but my interpretations of designs from the different Pueblos.

My woodturning affiliations include membership in the American Association of Woodturners, and past president of the Northwest Washington Woodturners Association. I teach wood segmentation classes several times a year at the





First place & best of show 2005



2nd Place 2005



*It's been my privilege to know Ron since my initial membership in Northwest WA woodturners. Ron, like all the long time members of the club is always willing to share his knowledge with anyone who expresses a sincere interest in turning. Thus it came as no surprise when I showed up at his shop last month for a brief informal photo session that I would find Ron busy assisting another member. Pictured above is Ron with Sherry McDuffy working on a piece using Ron's vacuum chuck setup. Pictured opposite are a few pieces Ron submitted for this writeup. For a more in depth look at his turning interests, please visit his on line gallery at:
www.unique-woodturning.com*

Everett, Washington, Puget Sound Woodworking Center and demonstrated segmentation turning at the past three annual Woodturning Symposiums held at the Center.



Autumn Leaves

My work is currently on display in Artwood, at Fairhaven, Washington gallery; at Woodwright's Gallery in Gig Harbor, also in Washington State, and in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho as well as Arts of Snohomish gallery

<http://www.artsofsnohomish.org/>



Cherry with black rim

in Snohomish, Wa.. Prior regional gallery exhibitions include Sandpoint and Lewiston, Idaho, and the Wood Merchant in LaConner, Washington. I also participate in juried art shows throughout the Northwest.

I am currently a board member of Arts of Snohomish gallery in Snohomish, Wa., vice-president of the Northwest Washington Woodturners Association and a member of NorthWest Corner Woodworkers.

Member's Gallery

A monthly showcase of members' work

Member's Gallery



Maple burl
Danish oil



Cherry
8" dia x 3"h.
No finish
turned wet



Maple burl
Danish oil
7" dia x 5"h



Apple
No finish
6" dia x 3"h
turned wet

Dick Jacobson



Maple burl
9" dia x 2-1/2"h
Danish oil

Chic Murray



Jerry Holmes

Member's Gallery

cont.



Maple
Carnuba & bees wax



Oak
10" dia. x 4" h.
Carnuba & bees wax

Mike Young



Walnut
6 1/2" dia x 2" h.
Wipe on poly



Fig & (?)
3" dia x 4" h.
Wipe on poly

Mert Dodge



Maple
9 3/4" dia
Profin
#1 bowl



Maple
6 1/2" dia
Profin
#2 bowl -
Just started turning!

Rick Erb



Tops
Jan Garlington



Cherry/Walnut rim
Danish oil



Mighty Mouse
Mixed woods
2" x 2"
Shellac

John Gruenwald



Satinwood w/
Purple heart lamination
Danish oil

Jack Northey



Walnut w/
turquoise inlay
15" dia. x 2" h.
Benite

Ron Grant



Rotten Canadian maple
7" dia x 5" h.
Lacquer & CA glue

Jim Short



Madrone
12" dia x 6" h.
Boiled linseed oil



Russian Olive
4-3/4" dia x 4"h.
Lacquer
First bowl!



Sherry McDuffy

Walnut
Walnut oil and wax

George Way

Maple
12" dia x 4"h.
True oil



Steve Pulver



Big leaf maple
& alder
Dye, CA glue,
felt pen

Alder
Acrylic
Money tree for
a Wedding
Reception



Lucinda VanValkanburg

Classified

This space is set aside for members to advertise free of charge to sell or purchase Tools, wood, etc. Please submit your ad to Dennis Shinn (hdshinn@eskimo.com) by the last Thursday of the month or submit it to me at the meeting for inclusion in the next months newsletter.

MORE WOODTURNING

The newspaper for turners. Published 10 times a year by Fred Holder. One year: \$30.00; Two years: \$50.00; Three years \$70.00.

More Woodturning online at:

www.fholder.com/woodturning/woodturn.htm

Lots of great information for our browsing pleasure.

More Woodturning

PO Box 2168

Snohomish WA 98291-2168

Phone: 360-668-0976

email: woodturner@fholder.com

Club Discounts Available:

Show your Club Membership card and get 10% off at Rockler's and Crosscut Hardwoods.



A good source of myrtle, maple burl and other figured turning burls

Got a tool or two you no longer need? Need an item related to woodturning (or general shop use)?

Contact other members of the club here in the classified.

Targo Woods

**600 W. Holly Street
Bellingham**

On the grounds of the ReStore.

Local, Bellingham wood source for your projects. Hard woods, Burls, Veneers. Wood to replace a leg on a chair, make a whole dining room set or turn a bowl, you will find it at Targo.

Oby says: [NW Woodturner Club](#) members will get 10% off on their purchases.

Save on gas buy local.

Useful Website Links

Note:

Web links have been provided on our website rather than included in the newsletter. Please visit: www.northwestwashingtonwoodturners.org for club and resource links on the web.

For Sale: Nichols custom built bowl lathe. 3HP variable speed. Tailstock, 1-1/4" x 8TPI spindle thread. Turn up to 38" diameter.

\$US4,000.00

Contact Ron Schrimsher:

360-293-8386
