

# Northwest Washington Woodturners

Monthly Newsletter

Feb 2008



## Northwest Washington Woodturners....

meets every third Thursday of the month except April when the meeting is held the fourth Thursday. There is no meeting in December.

We meet at Hillcrest Park Lodge in Mt. Vernon WA. Exit I-5 at Kincaid street, exit 226. Turn east up Kincaid to So. 13th, turn right on 13th. Hillcrest Park is approx. six blocks south of 13th. The lodge is located in the Northwest corner of the parking lot beyond the tennis courts.

Meetings are open to anyone interested in wood turning. All skill levels from beginners to advanced turners are welcome.

### Club Contacts:

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**Jerry Holmes** – Member at Large

**Dave Blair** – Member at Large

**Dennis Shinn**–Newsletter

360-854-9909

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## Isn't this What it's all about



**Foster Miller gets a bit of guidance from Lucinda Van Valkenburg with his introduction to wood turning.**

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# Club Business:

**Meeting of The Northwest  
Washington Woodturners  
February 21 2008:**

## **Announcements:**

There were 9 new people at this meeting, welcome to all of you.

Chic Murray reminded us that next month there is the opportunity to exhibit and sell work in a large lockable display area in the new Burlington Library. Contact him at

[mcbmurray@aol.com](mailto:mcbmurray@aol.com).

Lucinda is selling raffle tickets for the Seattle club's fundraiser. The drawing is in April for a Oneway 1018 lathe or a Hitachi 1/2" cordless impact wrench, or two Eliminator Hollowing tools. Tickets are 1 for \$5. Or 5 for \$20.

Melanie is working on the new e-mail list, so if you are not getting the newsletter contact her with your e-mail address.

Remember to bring wood for raffle as it is a significant source of income for the club and helps fund events. Greg Anderson did a fine job selling the wood raffle tickets this month, thanks Greg.

## **Demonstrator/Class Schedule for This Coming Year:**

Gerrit VanNess has done an outstanding job lining up talent for demonstrations and classes for the coming year:

**March** — Art Liestman, design and teapots

**April** — Ben Carpenter, design, carving and turning. Class will be a two-day session.

**May** — Michael Werner, Multi center turning

**June** — Dan Ackerman

**July** — Jack Wynn or Dave Schweitzer

**August** — The club picnic

**Sept** — Larry Stevens, Coloring, texturing

**October** — Johannes Mickelson  
Wooden Hats

**November** — Club Potluck Feast

## **Meeting Notes:**

Our demonstrator for this meeting was Bob Doop, who showed us his band saw sled for limb trimming. Controlling the pith and using the natural movement of the wet wood is the purpose of marking, trimming and glue block mounting of limbs used to make his small hollow forms. It was a wonderful demonstration of yet another method of managing wet wood. Thank you Bob.

Serious Tools brought their new lathe and a selection of tools for sale.

Lucinda Van Valkenburg and John Mull demonstrated top turning. For those who haven't yet participated in our two "tops for kids" days, it is great fun and really easy. Volunteer this year, you'll enjoy it.

We will have tables at the Quil Ceda Carver's show April 19th and 20th.

May 10th and 11th is the Deming Camp Out and turning weekend

*Menu for March Herbed Roast Chicken, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Dressing, Some Kind of Vegetables and of course Green Salad and all the usual stuff. Everyone is welcome to enjoy Shirley's marvelous culinary talent. Cost is only \$6.00 for the buffet style dinner.*

## **Missing stuff**

Mark Straight, Melanie and I did the inventory today and found that we are missing **2 Jet Mini spur drives** and **1 worm screw** for the Vicmark chuck. If you have taken a class and found an extra in your stuff, their home is in the club trailer. We also discovered that we have two extra Jet mini knockout bars so if you are missing yours it is in the club trailer. See Mark about it.

*Shirley Butters  
Secretary*

**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*

*woodnut@anatechsys.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 20th**

## **Meeting agenda**

### **A woodturning challenge: Make a teapot.**

The meeting demonstration is about making a (non-functional) teapot with turned wood elements. A teapot is an object that allows for a lot of creativity and playfulness in design.

We'll discuss several options and look at images of many wooden teapots to inspire us in creating a design of our own.

A wooden teapot also provides several technical challenges for the turner. Solutions to these challenges can be applied to other turning projects.

Art Liestman will do a small amount of turning to illustrate some of these solutions.

## Shavings from the editor's floor

This month's issue is woefully late, ... again. It's taken me this long to come to grips with the loss we've all endured in so short a time it seems unreal.

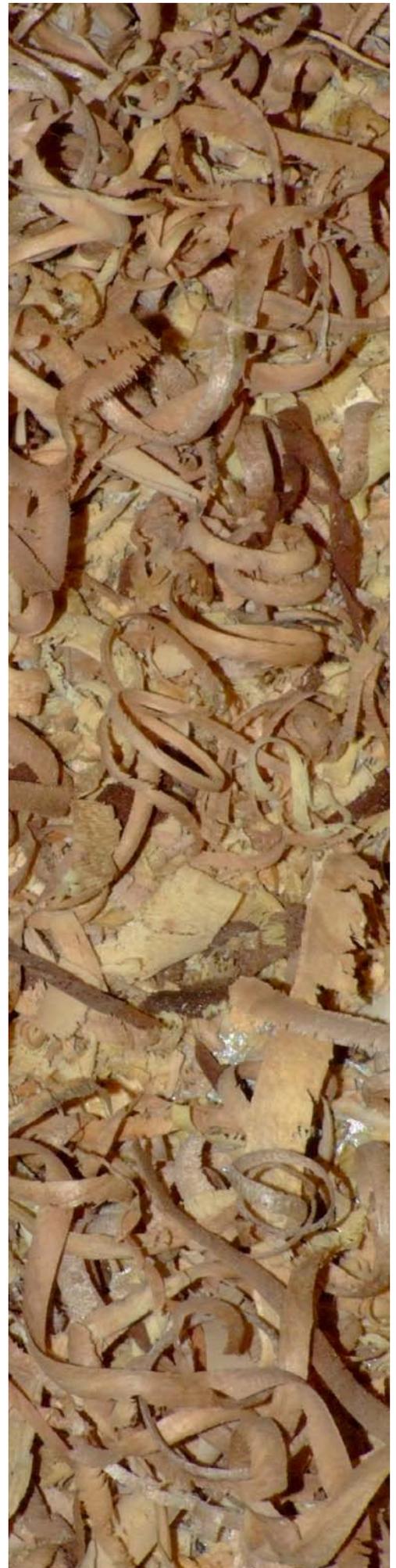
Most of us by now are all aware that our president, Ron Grant, passed away the 8th of March. Few of us knew of Ron's history of respiratory problems which culminated in the final assault of pneumonia which progressed into acute respiratory distress syndrome. The latter being most frequently fatal.

I would like to thank John (Novak) for taking the time to distribute the difficult news of Ron's hospitalization and updates on his condition. John's well composed final email message described the condition better than I could.

I knew Ron for such a short time yet like so many others I feel as though I've lost a lifetime friend. Anyone who had the pleasure of discussing wood turning with him knew he was willing and eager to teach what he knew. Perhaps the greatest single talent I personally learned from him was the art and gift of unselfish sharing.

I also want to thank Bob Doop for letting me include his eulogy in the newsletter. Bob put into words what most of us feel in our hearts.

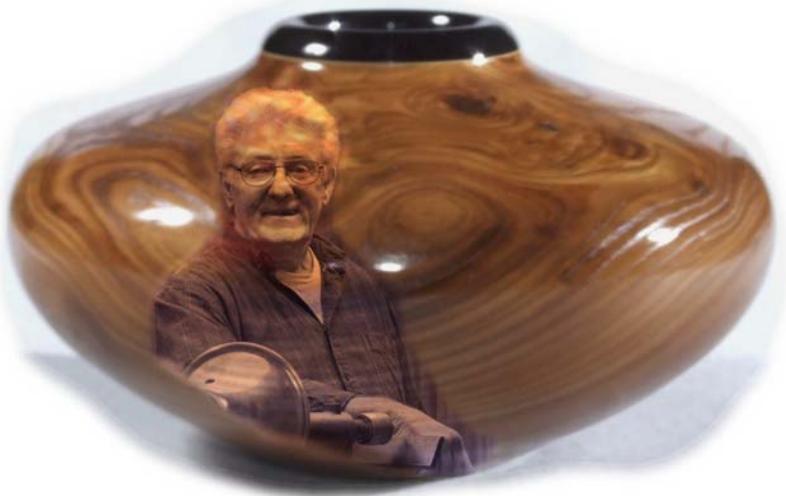
*Dennis Shinn*



**Ron Grant** was born in Grangeville, Idaho and graduated from Lewiston High School. In 1976 he married Barbara and began a life long journey. He worked as a paper maker for Potlatch in Lewiston, ID for 31 years and then moved to Arlington, WA where he worked another ten years as a consultant for Appleton Mills. He retired to pursue his passion for wood turning.

Ron was a gifted artist who created magnificent segmented bowls. When he wasn't in his shop, Ron enjoyed fishing, hunting camping and his family. He was an excellent husband, father, papa, and friend. He will be greatly missed.

Ron is survived by his wife of 32 years Barbara Grant, his brothers Larry and Carlos Grant, and daughters Deena Perra, Michelle Ryberg, Heidi Stone & Jill Strom, Grandkids Jeffery, Nick, Samantha, Chandler, Matthew, Joshua, Noah, Rebecca, Ashlee & McKenna & "one on the way"



**Russian Olive**  
9 x 5



**Maple  
Lacquer**  
9 1/2 x 5



**Russian Olive  
Lacquer**  
5 x 9

*From the Feb. gallery.*

## A Friend and a Teacher

I have been asked to express some thoughts about Ron from the Woodturners and Woodworkers ...

Ron had a love for his wife Barbara, for life, for his family and for woodturning. If you look at the body of his work it includes segmented pieces, sandblasted turnings, dyed embellishments, lacquer, art. He stayed with and worked on each, perfecting his skills until he owned the techniques and each piece was gallery quality, each new.

Yes, he was a very good turner – *was* is not easy to say! In my mind and heart he will live through the body of his work, through his students with whom he generously shared his techniques, and through the memories that we all carry of him.

He loved the club; to say he was active does not even cover it. He was a member for over ten years and twice served as president including this year! He was the force behind the woodturners' participation in Arts Alive in LaConner, Woodfest in Sedro-Woolley, the Deming Log Show, Tops in the Park in Mt Vernon and Bellingham. He would trade his demos at other clubs for a demonstrator for our local club.

When I saw him in the hospital last week, he knew he was sick, but no complaints. He wanted to

talk about the club, the mentor program, how to make the classes better. We talked, and laughed, he rested; we talked about the club some more – how to make it better, stronger, more fun. He had great plans for the woodturning club.

As I talked to club members these past few days two things are always mentioned: Ron's ready smile and his gift for teaching. Most all of us turners carry with us some important lessons we learned from Ron: If you were new to turning *he was the 'go-to' guy*. If you were more experienced and wanted to get better *he was the 'go-to guy'* He could and would show you how to 'tame the skew' and not cut threads, but actually make something.

So how will I remember Ron? By the things he left with me: The true gift of the teacher always generous to share his knowledge and craft with others, and the gift of a steady and encouraging friend.

....And what do I think he's doing now? I can imagine him teaching some new friends his special techniques. Maybe he's organizing a club for woodturners! I think he is in a place where none of his turnings will ever again break through, fly off the lathe or blow up! The lathes are all blue and there is no Sea-Fin. That would be Heaven to me.

Farewell Good Friend. I hope to meet up with you again one day.

*Bob Doop*

# Turner of the Month

Assoc. Editor Jim Short

A lot of us know **George Way** as the guy who brings nicely formed pieces to the meetings and spends all that time doing the camera work for us. High school students have known him for twenty-eight years as 'teacher'. All the dogs in his neighborhood know him as the source of those cool wooden water dishes. I recently got to know George as another happy soul who has parlayed years of collecting pieces of tree into a passion for woodturning. I have this phrase on my business card and like the sound, not "trees". If this doesn't work for you, substitute "collecting wood".

Five years ago George bought a midsize Grizzly lathe and stabbed at wood for a couple of months. A chance encounter with a friend from 1969, club member Dick Jacobson, revealed his friend's excitement about learning to turn with Ron Scrimsher and George was off. He turns for an hour every night after work and takes similar advantage of any free time on the weekend. Three and a half years ago he fell in with the Fidalgo Island Vicmarc cult, and bought a VM 1200 short bed with an extension.

George's Anacortes city lot has several large stashes of wood, most of which is green. He enjoys turning everything from ornaments to goblets and large platters. Most of his pieces are turned fairly thin, which can be risky.



*Above: George and a modest display of his volume of work. Below: Where it all happens.*

On display next to the lathe are parts of two bowls that looked sound enough. George recommends that you always wear a face shield.

His preferred finishes are Profin, Mahoney's walnut oil and Mahoney's oil/wax. This year he expects to sell one hundred pieces at wholesale prices to friends and associates.

Advice from George: "Keep turning and, just as in skiing turning is all about controlling your tools' edges."





**Unknown Wood  
Profin**

*Did anyone identify the  
wood?*



**Walnut  
Profin**

## **George's contribution to the February gallery.**



**Maple  
Profin**



**Maple  
Profin**



**Maple  
Profin**

# Member's Gallery

February: A monthly showcase of members' work



Bob Bostwick  
Unknown  
Danish Oil/Wax



John Novak  
Maple  
Wax  
21" diameter



Jan Garlington  
Banksia Pod  
Essential Oil Diffuser



Jack Northey  
Poplar  
Tung Oil



Mike Marcinko  
Cedar, Walnut & Maple  
Profin

# Member's Gallery

February meeting: cont.



Gene Skallerud  
Alder  
Tung Oil  
13 ½ x 3 ½



Joe Kelly  
Birch  
Walnut Oil  
5 x 5



Mike Young  
Maple/Redwood  
Profin  
16" diameter



Chic Murray  
Laminated Plywood  
Beeswax  
10 x 6

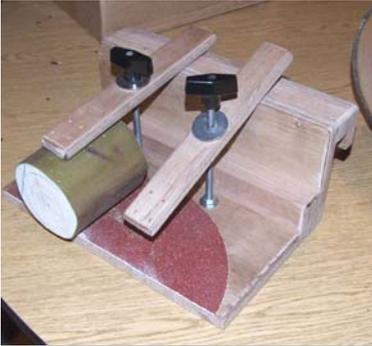


John Gruenwald  
Maple & toothpicks  
1 ½ x 5  
"Cancer Survivor"

# February Meeting:

## Branching Out: Bob Doop

Last month we included an article covering Bob's demonstration at the Vancouver club describing his techniques in turning branchwood into small open and closed forms.



We were fortunate to have him demonstrate his process at our meeting as well.

One of the secrets to achieving some degree of control over the deformation of the green wood he prefers to turn is the bandsaw jig shown above. This ensures accurate and even centering of the pith through the width of the piece.

Branchwood is most often free and quite plentiful so it makes great material for practicing technique. Bob suggests that focusing on a single concept and working with it until you're truly satisfied with the form is one of the best ways to achieve consistency in your turning.



## Mentoring Session



When we say mentoring, that's precisely what we have in mind! Above young Forrest Miller gets some initial instruction from Lucinda. We're pleased to see young people show an interest in turning. We look forward to including Forrest's work in the monthly gallery!

Lucinda Van Valkenburg and John Mull provided tips on two approaches to turning tops. The club schedules several top turning sessions during various youth activities so this is a good skill/project to develop.



## Metal Spinning Group to Meet

Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> Dennis Shinn will host an exploratory meeting of all those interested in forming a metal spinning group. This will be an all day sack lunch session. Coffee and soft drinks will be provided.

The purpose will be to do a little spinning, talk about spinning in general and to discuss the direction the group should take. Hours will be 9:00 — 3:00. If you've never seen hand spinning before and would like to try your hand at it, please join us. Tools will be available along with material to spin.

From the south take the College Way exit from I-5 in Mt Vernon heading East to the Big Lake roudabout. Hear go north towards Sedro-Woolley. At the north side of Clear Lake turn right (east) on Old Day Creek Road up the hill 1.6 miles to Timber Lane on the right side of the road. We're just at the bottom of the hill. From the north take the SR20 exit in Burlington then south on SR9 to Clear Lake and Old Day Creek Road. Go left and follow directions above.

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## Web Site Update

Jan Garlington, our web master, is still working on the improvements to the club web site. She welcomes any input you may have for what you would like the website to be and do.

Feel free to contact Jan at:

[oxalis80288@mypacks.net](mailto:oxalis80288@mypacks.net)

or by phone:

360-668-2392

A Very



### Serious Tool Works

[www.seriouslathe.com](http://www.seriouslathe.com) brought their model 2542 lathe to show at the meeting. Weighing in at over 1300 lbs it's a good match for the size of work that can be mounted on it. The 3HP 3 phase variable speed motor with on board phase converter offers ample power to spin it. For a more complete listing of the specs visit their website given above.

A few of us had an opportunity to try making some shavings. This is a very steady, vibration free machine that could tame a large piece of out of balance material. Believe it or not, the entire bed, gussets and all is a single piece of cast iron! Handwheels, tail stock and banjo clamp levers are all oversized compared with most lathes even in the same class. Although few lathes compare to some of the more extensive specifications.

Spindle taper is a Morse #3 and spindle thread is 1½"x8 which would require either adapters to fit any existing tooling you may have or new tooling altogether. Nevertheless with

four heavy duty spindle bearings and the massive tail stock assembly with a 6" quill travel, there are no weak links in the drive train.

At just a shade under \$6,000.00 the target market is the more advanced turner. But few would argue that anyone would ever outgrow its capacity.

Be sure to check out their offerings on the turning tools page of their web site. Several examples of their tools were on display and for sale at the meeting. Yes, they are indeed serious as well. Most come unhandled to allow you to turn your own handles for a cost saving. It would be nice if they offered tool rests with a post diameter to fit other lathes rather than just the 1½" diameter listed. Their tool rests are stainless steel and would appear to stand up to normal abuse better than standard cast iron.

When the time comes to get serious about turning, this would be a worthwhile addition to the shop!

## 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](mailto:hdshinn@eskimo.com)) by the last Thursday of the month or submit it to him 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](http://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](mailto:woodturner@fholder.com)

### Club Discounts Available:

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

### FOR SALE



### BONNIE KLEIN MINIATURE LATHE

DC variable speed drive.

With Threading attachment.

Two additional chucks.

Collet set.

Two faceplates.

Collapsible Stand

Set of miniature tools and much more. If you are interested in miniature turning, this is the lathe designed by one of the best miniature turners, Bonnie Klein.

Give this to your self or another interested in miniatures for Christmas. \$600

Mike Jackets, (360) 293-0530

[bluejack@cablerocket.com](mailto:bluejack@cablerocket.com) for

pictures.



*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.

**Dunlap 9" x 32"** (bench top) lathe that I have for sale. It has a 1/2 hp motor, live and dead centers, three face plates, and a four jaw wood chuck. The 1725 RPM motor is coupled via (4) step pullies (V-belt) in the head and on the motor. It is also capable of out board turning, and the tail stock is adjustable for off center turning. This lathe is in perfect (like new) condition, and needs a new home now that I have ordered a bigger one that will cause this one be moved out of my small shop.

I am asking \$250 for the the package as described above. I would be willing to bring it to the next club meeting or it can be seen here at my home in Anacortes. Once discovered I'm sure it won't last long though. Also, I have a 1HP 3450 like new motor (110-220 v) that I would take \$50 for. It has a standard mounting base.

If a general E-mailing is in order that would be great.

**Dave Balyeat**  
**360-420-4942**

## Targo Woods

**1104 C Street Bldg. B**  
**Bellingham, WA**

Just three blocks south of the old site.

[www.targowoods.com](http://www.targowoods.com) [or]

[www.hardwoodstoget.com](http://www.hardwoodstoget.com)

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: [NWWoodturner 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](http://www.northwestwashingtonwoodturners.org)

### Nichols Custom Bowl Lathe:

3hp Baldor variable speed motor  
Huge turning capacity

\$1500

### Contact Dick Jacobson -

[dij@wavecable.com](mailto:dij@wavecable.com)

360-299-0429

*Tell 'em you read about it in the Northwest Washington Woodturner's newsletter!*