



THE TURNING TIMES

Volume 12 Issue 8

An East Texas Woodturners Publication

August 2004

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Visit us at www.easttexaswoodturners.org

THE TURNING TIMES is a published monthly as an information source for members of the East Texas Woodturners (ETW). ETW is a chapter of The American Association of Woodturners (AAW) and is committed to serving woodturners in the East Texas area surrounding Tyler, Texas. The ETW Chapter joins with the AAW in its dedication to providing education, information and organization to those interested in woodturning.

Meeting at TJC West Campus

August 14, 2004 9:00 a.m.

THE PREZ SAYS

Gene Kircus called his demo Everything You Have Forgotten About Woodturning. Well it may have been things he had forgotten but most of it I never knew in the first place. What a great demonstrator and teacher. Didn't you just love his "Flying Saucer" act? You know that Gene is one of the mentors of the club. This just shows what caliber of help is available to the members of this club just for the asking.

At the next meeting we will be voting on a couple of changes to the By-Laws. We plan to separate the offices of Secretary and Newsletter editor. Also, to clarify things, the Vice President will become the President Elect. It has been the custom for the Vice President to follow the President into office but that is not actually stated. By doing this it will provide for continuity in the operation of the club.

This year is really going fast. Only four more meetings left. This brings up the question of Club Officers for next year. You need to be thinking about what office you would like to hold. Believe me this is a rewarding experience and an opportunity to learn so much from the close contact with the other officers.

You DO NOT have to be a great turner to be a successful officer in the club. In fact you don't even need to know how to turn to be a great officer, what is needed

is interest in the club and a little time you will devote to it. Talk to me about what you would like to do. We can use someone for every position for the next year.

SHOW AND TELL! Bring something! As I have said before, it doesn't have to be a great work of art, sometimes we learn much more from failures than successes. Everybody is interested in what YOU are doing, especially if you are a new turner. The mentors are available to offer praise for work well done and suggestions for improvement. Bring something in and talk to them about it. Also, it is a chance to win a beautiful piece of the wood that Woodcraft donates every month.

Raffle items for this month, Double Ended Calipers, Curved Forceps, Set of Three Diamond Hones, Seven-piece Frostner Bit Set, Six-piece Technical Measuring Set, and Swing Arm Light. The 1/2" Bowl Gough will be awarded this month. Only four more chances to buy the winning ticket for the Christmas Raffle, you know you want that Stronghold Chuck with the extra jaws.

Start planning to attend the Club's Freedom Pen Turn-a-Thon in September. Members of the club are hard at work getting everything ready for this event. Contact Ed Heuslein and let him know what you can do to help. If you have ever been in the military you know what it means to get something from home that lets you know that someone back there is thinking about you and appreciates what you are doing.

Speaking of Ed, be sure and come to the August meeting and see his demo on making Finial Boxes. Nobody does a better job on these than Ed.

Looking forward to seeing each of you on the 14th.

Tom

Table of Contents

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| The Prez Says..... | 1 |
| July Meeting..... | 2 |
| August Demo | 2 |
| Mentor List..... | 2 |
| Tip of the Month..... | 3 |
| Classifieds..... | 3 |
| Safety Tips & Information | 3 |

July Meeting



WOODCRAFT

Helping You Make Wood Work

Jet
Sorby
Tormek

Powermatic
Nova
One-Way

Delta
Crown
Vega

A Complete Line of
Woodworking Tools, Accessories,
Woodworking Classes and Seminars.
The Metroplex's Largest Selection of Turning
Tools, Supplies, Exotic and Domestic Blanks.

Store Hours

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Monday – Friday | 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. |
| Thursday | 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. |
| Saturday | 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. |
| Sunday | 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. |

14300 Marsh Lane – Addison, TX 75001
(972) 241-0701

August Demo

Ed Heuslein started turning when he retired in 1996. He was a charter member of the Northwest Woodturners in Beaverton (suburb or Portland), Oregon. However, after just a year, he and his wife, Mary, decided to put woodturning on hold and move to East Texas so they could be closer to Mary's mother. One of the first things Ed did was join the East Texas Woodturners. That was in the beginning of 1998. Then, after about a year of looking for a house, moving in, and getting set up, he got his lathe up and running again. Realizing that his memory was suffering from "old timers disease" and he could not remember much of what he was learning in the monthly demonstrations, he started recording the demonstrations. He has been active in the club ever since.

This month's demo will be "Turning Finial Boxes." That is almost accurate. The key to a successful box is in the fit of the lid. Therefore, that fit will be the main focus of this demo. How that technique can be carried on to other situations will be discussed. If time permits and everyone is still awake, a short discussion on completing the turnings will be provided.

Mentor List

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Charles Brooks | 839-7042 |
| Tom Criswell | 509-1042 |
| Tom Crosby | 567-4701 |
| Norm Dixon | 753-6980 |
| Steve Green | 489-1507 |
| Ed Heuslein | 843-3838 |
| Gene Kircus | 825-2111 |
| Peggy Kircus | 825-2111 |
| John Leonard | 592-6009 |
| Lynn Pratt | 581-0769 |
| Ken Terrell | 839-4735 |
| Mike Taylor | 723-8125 |

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|---------------------------|
| Whitehouse |
| Tyler |
| Canton |
| Longview |
| Athens |
| Kilgore/Overton |
| Emerald Bay |
| Emerald Bay |
| Tyler/New Harmony/Lindale |
| Noonday/Flint |
| Whitehouse |
| Palestine |

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| gpkircus@earthlink.net |
| jdl38@flash.net |
| lwoodpratt@aol.com |
| ktrpt@tyler.net |
| taylorrm@goquest.com |

Classifieds

Tip of the Month

Nova 3000 Lathe with stand

This lathe is similar to the club lathe Except that it has a 1/2 H.P. 220V DC Motor. It is 2 1/2 years old. Asking \$1,000

Woodtek dust collector \$150.00

Call Walter Tate
(903)534-8808

Fire Ant Control

A home made version of a popular fire ant bait type treatment (like Amdro).

1/2 cup Welches' Concord Grape Juice
1 Pint Water
1/2 cup White Corn Syrup
1 Level teaspoon of Orthene

Mix these four ingredients together by shaking well in a quart jar .

Add this mixture to 5 Pounds of White Cornmeal

Mix Well

The mixture will be barely damp .

Apply 1 Tablespoon around mound when ground is dry and warm .

Fire Ants need to be active and carry the material into the mound .

Do not use when rain is possible that day or if the ground is wet.

Keep in tightly covered container .

Must be used within three weeks .

Read and follow all restrictions on the Orthene package .

Keep out of the reach of children .

Safety Tips & Information

The following is a reprint (with permission) of a letter to the editor of the Workshop News magazine published in the August 2004 edition. The author of the letter, Kerry Pierce, is a well know author of several woodworking related books – *The Wood Stash Project Book*, *Authentic Shaker Furniture*, *Making Shaker Woodenware*, *The Art of Chair-Making*, *the Custom Furniture Sourcebook*, *Practical Projects from Fine Woods*, *The Used Lumber Project Book*, *The Woodworker's Visual Guide to Pricing Your Work*, *Small-Production Woodworking for the Home Shop*, and *Making Elegant Gifts from Wood*.

Please read and take to heart,
Mike DeLong

Cancer, mineral spirits

In October of 2003, I was diagnosed with Stage 4, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and given a 20-percent chance of survival. I was only 53 and in what I thought was reasonably good health. Twenty years earlier, I'd given up smoking, and ever since, I'd made a reasonable effort to live a healthy lifestyle, one that included daily exercise and a nutritious diet. Nevertheless, there I was last October, along with my wife and daughter, in the office of the man who would later become my Primary oncologist, receiving a diagnosis that was uncomfortably close to a death sentence.

Several times during the four months of chemotherapy that followed, I asked my oncologist about the specific kinds of things in my life which might have contributed to my cancer. At first, he was reluctant to discuss this -- he wanted me focused only on my recovery, not on regrets -- but I persisted, and eventually he explained that a number of studies have linked lymphoma and the solvents used by furniture makers -- a linkage I later confirmed with a little research.

In my case, solvent use means mineral spirits, since it is the only one I use regularly in my shop.

Years ago, when I was still applying spray finishes, I was scrupulous about wearing a respirator whenever I worked with mineral spirits, but in the late '80s, when I made the switch from sprayed finishes to brush-on, wipe-off finishes, I dropped the respirator from my finishing regimen because I thought that the absence of airborne droplets eliminated the risk. Plus, I enjoy the finishing process, and wearing a respirator diminishes the pleasure I take in this activity. I also thought that a product like mineral spirits -- which is in such widespread use -- even among those who are not woodworking professionals or hobbyists, couldn't be really dangerous, despite the warnings on the cans.

I was foolish.

Breathing the unfiltered, fumes of mineral spirits no doubt contributed to my lymphoma, but I believe the most dangerous element in my finishing regimen was my failure to wear gloves. This meant that at the conclusion of every finishing session -- often a daily event in my shop -- I would wash finish from my hands with mineral spirits, thereby absorbing the toxins through my skin.

The fault was my own. There were warnings on every can of mineral spirits I ever purchased, and I ignored them.

If you're working with solvents --and I would imagine this applies to almost everyone reading this magazine -- please heed the warnings on the cans. Believe me: The dangers are very real.

Kerry Pierce
Lancaster, Ohio

Editor's note: Manufacturers warn that the use of mineral spirits will produce exposure to benzene, which is listed by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health as a potential occupational carcinogen. NIOSH recommends the use of a respirator and skin protection when working with mineral spirits.