



# TURN NORTH



Monthly Newsletter of the Northland Woodturners, Kansas City MO

May 2006

## May 4 NWT Meeting: Collaborative Demonstration on Finishing

Our May meeting should be a fun one. The plan is to talk and demo YOUR FAVORITE FINISHES!! You're invited to contact Vice President Dennis Avondet who is going to coordinate this finish fest and volunteer to demonstrate your favorite finish. Be ready to tell how it goes on, how much time it takes, benefits, and pitfalls of the finish. Do you Deft? Are you a wax only kind of turner? Love those friction finishes?? High gloss? Low/no gloss? What floats your finish boat and why? Should be entertaining and enlightening.

**The chapter meets on the first Thursday of each month from 7-9 pm at Overland Tool North, 1404 Gentry, North Kansas City MO 64116.**

Their phone number is (816) 268-4304. Off Missouri Hwy 9, turn east & go 4 blocks on 14th St.--Off I-35, take the 16th St. exit, go west to Gentry & south to the intersection of 14th St.

For a map, visit: <http://maps.google.com/maps?q=1404+Gentry,+North+Kansas+City,+MO&iwloc=A&hl=en>

### April Highlights

We again talked about dealing with inactive members, finding ways to encourage inactive members to return, and how to deal with those who have not attended in a long time. Details inside. Dean Thomas talked about creativity, both inside and outside the "box" of chunks of raw material. The winner of the Easter Egg Challenge was announced.

### Coming Attractions

May 4, '06 ..... Collaborative Demo, "Finishes"  
June 1, '06 ..... Chip Siskey, Satellite Bowl  
July 6, '06 ..... Lord Only Knows Who,  
Aug 3, '06 ..... Dwight Herrick, "Duck Calls"

Website: <http://www.NorthlandWoodturners-KC.org>

### 2006 Officers

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Chip Siskey, Advisor

Kent Townsend, Advisor

**Join the chapter's Yahoo Group:**

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TurnNorthKC/>



## Member of the Month

The May Member of the Month is Kenny Heermann. He lives in Independence with his wife. Kenny has lived there since 1955. Both have hobbies that keep them busy, Kenny likes to turn, and his wife likes to do quilting. Kenny did his first woodturning in high school (1964-65) and that got him interested. However, the hobby got put aside for a time and he did flat work for a number of years with what he could afford to do. Just like we have heard from several members, its thanks to Danny Moreno that Kenny started turning. He went to Paxton's to pick up some lumber and saw a pen demonstration. Kenny walked away from the demo with one of the little black lathes that you have to buy the motor separate. When asked what he likes to turn Kenny said, "Bowls!" We look forward to seeing those bowls, Kenny. Keep 'em coming! Kenny is the type who likes to "put the wood on the lathe & see what happens" when it comes to turning.



### The President's Corner

Points from chapter president, Marci Eigenschenk

Greetings! We're looking forward to another great meeting of the Northland Woodturners on the first Thursday of May. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Congrats to Chip Siskey for winning grand prize with his deviled egg for our Easter Egg Challenge. Chip won \$150.00 to spend at Overland Tool.

Well wishes to Bill Wheeler and a speedy recovery. We miss your smiling face and want you back as soon as possible, Bill.

Thanks to Dean Thomas for his presentation at our April meeting. Chapter Vice President Dennis Avondet will be semi-leading the May meeting if you wish to talk to him about finishes.



## Easter Egg Challenge Winner

Chip Siskey's entry, "Devil Egg", was the winner in a close contest for first place. It brought lots of smiles to lots of faces, according to Steve Dinwiddie, our host from Overland Tool North. He said that the display case was a regular stopping place for visitors to the store.

Chip received an Overland Tool gift certificate for his winning entry.

Great job, Chip. Folks are already planning what they can do for next year.

## Creativity

Mike Glennon, Weymouth, Massachusetts, <http://www.heirloom-woods.net>

*Mike Glennon is an on-line friend of several years and was kind enough to agree to be a guest editorialist on Creativity this month. Mike G. is a long-time woodworker, making his living in custom woodwork. He creates the wonderful cradles found on his website, cabinetry, chests, and other fine pieces.*

When asked to write a piece on creativity the most logical place to start was to define the word and go from there. So...

cre·a·tive (*kree-AY-tv*) *adj.*

1. Having the ability or power to create: Human beings are creative animals.
2. Productive; creating.
3. Characterized by originality and expressiveness; imaginative: creative writing.

Assuming everyone reading this is human and with apologies to any gray/green person/thing reading this out in Area 51, we've all got a pretty good lock on number one and there isn't much need to delve further into it.

Number two is pretty much a no-brainer also. From a Neanderthal using red pigment to draw a crude animal on a cave wall to my wife sharpening a number two pencil (the extent of her woodworking, I'm afraid), everyone, every day, creates things. Whether it's dinner, my wife's pencil with the sharp point she created, or, right now, the honey do list she keeps interrupting me with as I write this, you'd pretty much have to be in a coma to get through a day without creating something.

Number three however is the kicker. Number three is the definition that causes most highly creative people such as yourselves to balk and deny the presence of a creative bone in their body. And yes I really do mean that every one of you turners reading this is highly creative.

For some unfathomable reason when the term creative comes up, the minds of people—woodworkers in our case—flash to the high end of the spectrum: the Chippendales, Nakajimas, or Maloofs of the woodworking community.

Not that it is not a good thing to aspire to such heights, as a matter of fact I recommend it. The unfortunate part is that many woodworkers think of those heights as an unobtainable goal and seriously shortchange their above average ability to create.

"Why above average?" you may ask. Woodworking of any type is not an innate ability and everyone of you and every other artisan from gourmet chef to hobby candle maker have

deliberately embarked on a course that will require years of work developing the knowledge, techniques, and skills to create something from raw materials that falls outside of the mundane daily tasks such as putting a steak under the broiler to create a dinner or sharpening a pencil.

You have also done it outside of a work environment that requires you to create something, reports, sales, whatever, for pay. You've done it out of the need to create something beyond your everyday existence.

Everything done today, next week, in the next decade, whenever, is done on a base of knowledge gathered from the experiences and work of others who came before. Most of us, myself included, may never reach the height of public recognition that one associates with a Thomas Chippendale or a Sam Maloof, yet even the work of these giants of woodworking is based on the skills and knowledge dating back into pre-history.

Whether you are working from an existing plan or trying to duplicate something you saw somewhere at sometime, it is (unless you are a complete martinet or totally anal retentive) impossible to not introduce something of yourself into the piece you are creating and, trust me on this, while your work may never grace the Oval Office or Buckingham Palace, the cradle you give your child for the birth of theirs or the hope chest given a daughter on her graduation day will be more revered and cherished than something by an old master or by the artist de jour that is sitting in some showplace gallery or purchased as an ostentatious display or wealth.

When I turn my computer on the first thing I see is a Yahoo home page with the daily news, weather, and selection of new pictures from various news services. If you ever doubt your ability to create I'd strongly urge you to take a look at the latest high fashions from France or Korea or the latest fair-haired artist of the rich and famous. As near as I can tell the latest craze for the creations of the latter consists of snapshots of hundreds of naked people posed in a public setting or stringing banners of colored cloth across rolling landscapes of New York's Central Park.

I leave you with one last thought. If you must measure your level of creativity against the work of others, remember: one of the most reproduced and famous paintings created in the twentieth century was that of a Campbell's tomato soup can.

## Northland Woodturners Library

Alex Garcia has donated the Robert Sorby threading tools video tape instruction. He says it's a pretty good tape. He's been inspired by Anthony Harris of the KC chapter for years, and finally decided to learn how to thread. Claims he's not ready for prime time yet, but he's learning. And he's donated the tape so that all of us can get inspired, too!

Thanks, Alex!



## Active & Inactive Membership in the Northland Woodturners Chapter

The officers and chapter members have been discussing how we should be handling inactive members in the chapter. Everyone agrees that our hope is that those who have been active in the past would hear that the club is on solid ground, has a great new home, and has been having good turnout and good demos. We want people to know that it's worth their time coming to the meetings! It always has been, but with so many folks on the role, it seems like something is keeping them back.

We're going to continue to try to woo back inactive members, however, with rising costs of postage and supplies, the free newsletter will only go to people who are active, or receiving it by email.

As all of the members of NWT know, we do not charge annual dues. We'd much rather have you at the meetings. Between the raffles and a few projects, and the hard work of many active members, our financial obligations are low. Part of that means participation in the regular activities of the club. The practice since the beginning of the chapter was that you became a member by signing the insurance waiver and declaring that you wanted to be a member! You remained an active member by attending a chapter function at least every 3-4 months.

As costs rose over the last year, we recognized that we needed to take action to help keep our funds from just going away. One action that has been recommended is that we move to an emailed version of the newsletter for all those who can receive it. That helped keep money in the treasury. We still have a number of members who receive their newsletter (in black and white) by US Postal Service.

The vast majority of those "snail-mailers", however, are inactive members.

At the April meeting, it was agreed that we would extend the one function every 3 months to one every 4 months, just to make sure that as many as possible could remain active.

Once a snail-mailer member's fourth month of inactivity passes, that member will receive one last newsletter with a note that it is the last issue.

If you are one of our members who just can't make it to the meetings but still enjoys seeing the newsletter, we do have a solution for you! If you want to subscribe to the mailed newsletter instead of paying dues, you are more than welcome to do that. We will offer this "subscription" at the rate of \$10 for the year. The year includes the 4 months that have passed, plus the next 8 months as well. Everyone that the officers have polled in the chapter feel that this is fair. It is less than a raffle ticket per month, less than a pizza at most places, and it pays for most of the costs of producing the newsletter. And if that \$10 is a financial burden to you and you still want to receive the newsletter and can't afford it, talk to the officers.

To subscribe, the inactive members will be asked to send a check made out to the Northland Woodturners and a note to the secretary of the chapter. The records will be noted and the money given to the chapter treasurer for deposit.

If you have questions or comments, please contact one of the officers.

## The April Gallery

### People & Projects



Dean Thomas was the April demonstrator. After a lot of good group discussion about what constitutes a pleasing shape, he turned this bottle stopper. A stylized, curvey top hat to "top off" a favorite bottle of wine suits a more formal occasion!



**Can you bring some give-away tops to supply the Big Top on the counter at Overland Tools North? We'd appreciate it!!**

**Don't Forget!! Note the Corrected Dates:  
Plan Now: 20th Annual AAW Symposium  
Louisville KY, June 22-24, 2006**

**AAW Christmas Ornament Project**

If you're going to send Christmas ornaments to the AAW Symposium, and you'd like to send them with Chip and Kent, please get them to the Northland Chapter Meeting in either May or June. Chip and Kent have agreed to transport all ornaments that are ready. Pack them appropriately to ensure that they arrive whole.

These ornaments will be part of the AAW "Give Back to the Community" effort, much like the tops from last year's symposium. The ornaments will be used by the Children's Mercy Hospital in Louisville to decorate Christmas trees to be sold at auction. Last year's auction brought in excess of \$400,000. Let's be a help!

*The April Gallery*  
People & Projects



Fruit from the Dale Nish workshop. A couple of nice, natural edged hedge bowls.



## The April Gallery

### People & Projects



*We're looking to add more and more project pictures to our Gallery pages. Turn 'em and bring 'em, share 'em with the chapter! Everyone enjoys seeing others' work. That's part of why we're here, to observe, to learn, to share.*

### Chapter Sponsors and Supporters


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