



TURN NORTH



Monthly Newsletter of the Northland Woodturners, Kansas City MO

September 2006

Frank Novich to Demo at September 7 Meeting *Symposium Plans Moving Ahead!*

Frank Novich from the KC Woodturners Association turn a bird's-mouth vase for us the intricacies of the duck call. He says it's not really for the faint of heart, and reports that "tuning it in" is a lot like working on a musical instrument. "Turning them pretty is the easy part. Getting them to actually call birds is another issue." Last chance to vote on the RoadKill Challenge Projects.

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>

August Highlights

Thanks to Dwight Herrick and Gary Ficken who shared about turning and tuning game calls. Dwight talked about the need to learn more than the mechanics of building a call in order to produce them. Actually being able to talk "duck", "goose", or "turkey" on your calls will sell them quickly. "Anyone can make a 'pretty' call, but it has to *work* in order to *be* a call." Good challenge to all of us.

Details of the Symposium coming soon...

Coming Attractions

Sep 7, '06 Frank Novich, "Bird's Mouth Vase"
Oct 5, '06 ???
Oct 14, '06 NWT Symposium
Nov 2, '06 Ornament Challenge Due
Dec 7, '06 Holiday Fest

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Join the chapter's Yahoo Group:

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

Member of the Month



The September Member of the Month is Ron Ford. Ron is another one whose turning is a direct result of Danny Moreno's Turnabout Wood venture. Ron was taking a class on carving at another store and heard about "this other place with lots of great wood." He visited TaW about 4 years ago, saw some artful turning going on and was hooked. About the same time, Northland Woodturners was starting up and he has been part of the chapter from the beginning. Ron served as secretary for the chapter as well.

Ron's favorite wood to turn, as with so many in the NWT, is freewood. He shared, "That way it doesn't hurt so much when it becomes fancy firewood or a funnel instead of a bowl!" Ron and his wife Jan are regulars at chapter events, always ready and eager to help, saying that for him, the best part of turning is the fellowship of this chapter. Retirement is coming up soon for Ron. He says that the New Year should bring more time to devote to turning and some extra travel. I suspect it's really about searching for more of that "freewood"! Congratulations, Ron!

Ruminations

Dean Thomas

I've been blessed to have been able to spend some time watching woodturning videos for the last couple of weeks while recovering from a twingy back and in between job search excursions. And I've been reviewing candidates for the NWT Library as well. I've learned a little about turning, and had a lot of what I already know about life reinforced. Most of what I've seen to date have contained the requisite safety warnings (strong reminders about goggles being minimal, with full-face shields offering better protection), and the sharpening basics (with hints or instruction on how to achieve the demonstrator's preferred grinds). And lots of other stuff, to be sure!

I got to watch Alan Lacer explain the basics of turning. Alan is a great instructor, one who obviously cares not only about his craft, but a man who cares about those being taught and a recognition that they need a lot of what he's trying to share. That just pops through in his videos and in person. Topics on the video address: "What's a lathe?", basic history, basic functions, basic tools, basic cuts, and basic safety. It was a great video for someone wanting to get into the craft/hobby who has no idea or who has picked up a machine and is wondering, "What now?" If this is not already in the library, my guess is that it will be, as

part of an effort to be as much as we can be to as many as possible.

Have you ever watched any of Richard Raffan's videos? I have, but not recently. Richard is an Aussie with a charming manner that draws the watcher into his world. He makes it look SO easy. He smiles, cracks the occasional joke, makes lots of curls and obviously has a great time with what he's doing. His books are just as personable. He's full of practical information and instruction that makes this turner's heart swell. His first video was done in 1990, but is pretty much timeless. He took to the medium well and made great friends with the camera and all who see him through it.

Watching seven hours of a 1993 series by another Australian, Mike Darlow, was a mixed blessing. Mike's series was full of all sorts of information (mind you, based on 1993 technology and understanding) and the videos were peppered with lots and lots (and LOTS!!) of theory. These were the early days of video teaching, and Darlow was rather stiff and dry. Things to learn there, but kiln dry. He made some goofs and explained what happened. He did some interesting cuts and explained them laboriously, at least to my taste.

Ruminations *(continued)**Dean Thomas*

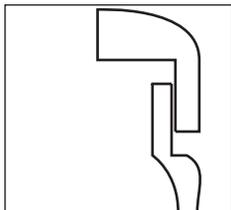
And now, some “new blood” has entered the market. I got to watch about six hours of Jimmy Clewes of Great Britain. These three discs are brand new (January 2005?) and provide “quality time” with a turner/instructor who is growing an international reputation. I watched as he created six distinct projects, spending about 45-55 minutes on each one, out of six distinctive blocks of wood. You heard him talk about the practical things (why I sharpen the way I do...), and the aesthetic (design aspects). Jimmy graduated with honors from a technical program where he concentrated on three-dimensional design, specializing in designing and making of furniture. He has some great turning “chops” and a keen eye for design detail. He doesn’t always tell enough (again, in my opinion) about the design aspects and the process that’s obviously going on behind the eyes, but there is an awful lot in these videos. He teaches a bit like the snippets of video that I’ve seen from Dick Sing, only he talks a lot faster. There is a thoroughness, and a passion that is quickly grasped. He wants to get a lot done in a given amount of time and knows that he wants to bring you along to the finish line. Video editing helps the process, and the delivery is pretty brisk. His skills are obvious. Innovations are obviously carefully thought out and fairly well presented.

One innovation in particular, I want to share with you. Jimmy not only demonstrated this, but one of the “extras” on the DVD was to show drawings of just how it looked up close.

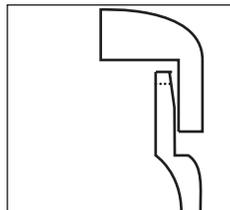
How do *you* fit the lid on a lidded box? Most of the instruction that I’ve seen over my years of turning has pretty much shown straight sides on a flange into

straight sides in the hole. Raffan’s technique added a little tiny taper on the flange so that the eventual straight walls could be fitted easier, but eventually, the taper was mostly removed, leaving only a slight relief bevel on the straight flange so that lidding was facilitated. Most of the boxes demonstrated showed their tremendous skill and awesome fit by pulling the top and hearing that satisfying “pop” and then placing the lid back on with just the slightest creak of wood-on-wood. Any of you seen or heard those demos?? You betcha we have. Then I went to Florida in January and listened to Cindy Drozda explain that women do not want boxes that “pop” when they’re trying to remove the top to drop in their rings. DOH! I think I could have guessed that, had I thought about it. And now, along comes Jimmy with the whole story and the way to make them both work from the same technique. Jimmy was also smart enough to recognize that the amount of pop is going to depend on who’s receiving the box. If it’s made to sell to the ladies, no pop please, but if it’s a gift to a woodturner, that pop will bring oohs and aahs of satisfaction.

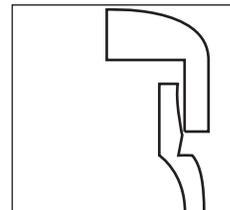
Jimmy combines the traditional straight walled theory with Raffan’s taper, but takes it just a step further. Look at the pictures below. One set shows straight lines and a tight fit that will pop fine when it’s made, but may either bind or rattle with changes in humidity. The second does a double taper so that if it’s done right, the point of the outcrop will grab the lid and provide the pop, or be adjusted slightly to provide a comfortably loose fit for the lady wanting a one handed lid. I thought it was a good tip, one that will show up in my next boxes, I’m sure. Much more forgiving than the straight wall design that I’ve produced over the years.



Traditional Lid Fit,
straight, tight walls



Raffan Lid Fit, taper
added to assist initial
fit



Clewes Lid Fit, double
taper to help ensure &
adjust final fit

The August Gallery

The RoadKill Challenge



Al Szalay's New Orleans/Katrina found-wood shelf-bowl. Cherry downed in the storm of 2005.



Den Avondet's "Fire Vessel" out of Missouri cedar.

Entries for the Northland Woodturners 2006 RoadKill Challenge Winner to be announced at September meeting. Y'all vote now, hear?



Kent Townsend's natural edge, hollow form out of spalted maple.



The August Demo



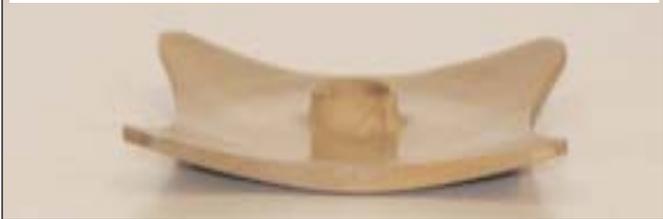
Dwight Herrick & Gary Ficken offered a tag-team discussion of the making of game calls. Dwight's point was that any of us could make calls that "look purty", but would the ducks, or geese, or other game respond to the call, run from the call, or cock their heads in confusion. It was a great session. Thanks!



The August Gallery Projects



Dennis Avondet has been turning the Member of the Month plates and has had a lot of poplar corners left over. He finally found a perfect project for those corners: these candlestick holders. Nice work, Dennis!



Another Dennis piece, this one is a nicely figured piece of local oak.



Marci Eigenschenk shared this gift for a friend. The walnut egg and the box elder stand are both etched by pyrography and painted.



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

Read a good woodturning-related book lately? Watched a good wood video?

Willing to write a short review?

Got an idea for an article or a need for some information that you think would interest everyone in the chapter? Contact Dean Thomas and let's see what we can do!

Remember, we want to publicize your favorite tips. Talk to your friendly newsletter editor for details, or to our illustrious VPrez to demo it at one of the monthly meetings.

Please return any NWT Library materials that you have at home. Thanks!!!!

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