



**MEETING DATE: MAY 12, 2007**  
**MEETING TIME: 10:00 AM**  
**MEETING PLACE: GEORGE HANCOCK'S SHOP**  
**1709 CLARK STREET MIDLAND TEXAS**  
**DEMO: EMBELLISHMENT OF TURNINGS**

## **WOODCHIPS**

Wow! I have been attempting to come up with something informative and interesting for this newsletter. I can assure you that "writer's block" is real.

All of you, our members, are hooked on the craft, art of woodturning, and each of you have specific interests that the officers and board are striving hard to help each of you in increasing your skills and helping you try new and more challenging projects.

Anyone, Woodturner or not, need only to look about their home, business or favorite restaurant to see examples of woodturning. Table legs, peppermills, bowls, candlesticks, chessmen, ball bats, pool cues, canes, and cutting boards offer a small example of items turned from wood. We admire the forms and beauty of the wood in these objects, and it inspires us to create.

I think that the desire to create something beautiful and useful is the driving force that makes us Woodturners. If you can see the beauty underneath a twisted rough piece of firewood, or discarded limb, and the possibilities that lie beneath the rough weathered bark, you are definitely bitten by the creativity bug. I think once bitten, there is no cure, and the creativity disease only progresses and drives you to find new and interesting ways to turn what nature produced into beautiful or useful items.

The old saying that "beauty is in the eye of the beholder" is certainly true in our art. What I may think is interesting and beautiful, may not appeal to others, and what they produce may not turn me on either. Still, I think it is important that we please ourselves first. If you are pleased with your product, you will be inspired to increase your abilities and the incorporation of new inspirations into your work. Of course, you will definitely have to buy more tools!

The trend over the last few years has been to incorporate other media, and adding burning, carving, and other techniques to make our work more interesting. Still, purists among us, stick to the basic techniques and materials, relying on the natural beauty of

wood and form. Which is the right path? I think the answer is either, or both, depending on our individual vision of creativity.

I encourage each of you to do the things that please you. It is nice to please others too, but please yourself first. I can assure you that if you are happy with your product, you will find others that will share your vision. Let us know what your visions are, so we can offer assistance where possible in the progression of your art.

Keep the Chips Flying?

George Hancock (ghostwriter for Don Farris)

## APRIL 2007 MEETING

As usual, George Hancock did a great job on his demonstration on how to embellish your turned projects with carving, shading, burning and coloring. I wish I had the talent that George has developed over the years. With time comes everything, but I want it now as I suspect we all do. If you need any guidance on how to embellish your turnings I am sure that George would be happy to assist in any way he could, outside of actually doing it for you.

## MAY 2007 MEETING

For May, Keith Hughes will demonstrate the last series of embellishing your turnings with the use of fillers to fill large cracks in your projects. Keith will discuss different types of fillers and how to add color to the filler media to further enhance your turnings. The demo will be at George's shop, 1709 Clark, Midland, TX at 10 AM to noon.  
(Newsletter and Ad)

## UPCOMING MEETINGS FOR 2007

All of the demo slots for the rest of the year have now been filled and are listed below, please include with the newsletter:

| <b>Month</b> | <b>Demo</b>                   | <b>Demonstrator</b> |
|--------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| May          | Fillers and Colors            | Keith Hughes        |
| June         | Flute                         | Ernie Showalter     |
| July         | End Grain Turning             | John Horn           |
| August       | Truing Warped Bowls           | Jim Ketcham         |
| September    | Christmas Decorations         | Stan Kretzler       |
| October      | Social                        | Club Members        |
| November     | Large Inside/outside turnings | Jake Kemper         |

## ***What finishes should I use?***

Once you've turned a piece of wood, you want it to stay looking nice and clean and not to soak up moisture from the air (at least, not too much - even with a finish, some moisture content changes are inevitable). This is done by the application of various **finishes**.

The first thing to say about finishing is that the finish *can not* be used to cover up for poor workmanship. Don't despair, however - abrasives can! You should start to sand, working with the lathe on a very slow speed, with quite a rough grit, pressing only lightly. Then work up through a range of grits; each one will remove the scratches left by the one before, until you reach a point where the scratches can't be seen (or felt!) at all. Use 80 grit in emergencies, but normally start with 120, then 180, 240, 320 and 400. Really fine work gets 500 and 600 as well, while for pens end up with Micromesh (in 8 grits ranging from 1500 to 12000!).

Once the work is as smooth as a baby's bottom, with all the blemishes, torn grain, dig-ins, etc. removed (although of course, you never get any of those, do you? I know **I** don't <huge grin and wink>), it's time to apply a finish coating. There are lots of products available, and the choice is yours, dependent on use. Most turners would recommend the use of a seal coat, such as a sanding sealer; these can be shellac-based or cellulose-based - use shellac if your top coat will be shellac-based. This is normally applied with a brush, and then wiped over with a cloth or kitchen roll (much safer for use with revolving work). Two or more coats are advisable, cutting back with a fine grit abrasive (600 is good) in between.

Examples of top coat finishes are oils (Danish oil, Tung oil, linseed oil, and my favorite, walnut oil, which dries naturally and is self-evidently food-safe, as I buy it from a supermarket), friction polishes (which are specifically intended for use on a lathe), other polishes (such as shellac), and waxes.

It's not easy to recommend particular brands of these products, for two reasons: one, it's a very personal choice, depending on the result the turner wants to produce, and how much handling the item is likely to get; and two, the products do not seem to be international (presumably because they are hazardous to ship). Try asking around at your club. I will give an "honorable mention" to the following UK products: the Chestnut range of cellulose-based finishes, the Liberon Wood turner's Stick (a blend of waxes, based on carnauba wax), and the Briwax range. One point to mention is that friction polish only gives its best effect on smaller turnings (less than 3 to 4 inches in diameter) - it relies on the friction heat to melt the finish into the wood and build up the gloss, and with larger turnings the heat has time to dissipate during each revolution.

## **YOU MIGHT BE A WOODTURNER IF**

**A fire never burns in your fireplace because you could make something out of that log, the sound of a chainsaw brings you running, you're constantly broke from buying tools and wood, or your bathroom is full of woodturning magazines and catalogs.**

## 2007 Officers

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*A construction worker died suddenly in his sleep, as he entered the Pearly Gates trumpets blared.*

*St. Peter approached him with his hand outstretched, "Congratulations, you are the oldest person ever to arrive here.*

*" There must be some mistake," the worker replied, " I am only forty years old." " Impossible," St. Peter replied, " We added your time sheets up twice and got 160 years both times."*

**Remember, the Southplains Woodturners meeting in Lubbock. They will be meeting the first Saturday of each month at Target Sheet metal. The time will be 10:00 am.**

