

WOOD CHIPS

September 2001

Next meeting Sept 10, at 6:30 PM at Consolidated Lumber located off I-35 West on 67th Street in Merriam Kansas--www.kcwoodturners.org



Kansas City
Woodturners
Club
Local Chapter of
The American
Association of
Woodturners

Officers:
President
Dick Woodhouse
(913) 851-5917

Vice President:
Alex Garcia
(816) 697-2982

Treasurer:
Don Gruis
(816) 763-3385

Secretary:
Jerry Darter
(816) 363-2658

Advisor:
John Shackelford
(913) 583-3303

Librarians:
Dick Smith
(913) 341-4613
Pete Stiglich
(913) 342-9133

Camera:
Don Grimes
(913) 962-2060

LAST MONTHS PROGRAM

With 48 members and guests present, John Shackelford presented an excellent program on turning Christmas ornaments. John discussed the wood and tools he uses to turn the ornaments and showed them in use by turning an ornament. Thanks for a great program John..

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

6:30 START—6:30 START--.

Bob Davis has made arrangements for nationally known turner Darrel C. Rhudy to present our September program. Mr Rhudy is a life long turner with many accomplishments including teaching at John Campbell and demonstrating at AAW National Symposiums. He uses native wood in his work producing vases, bowls and a wide variety of other turned objects. In addition Mr. Rhudy designs and produces his own line of turning tools which he will demonstrate and make available for purchase at our meeting. You Don't want to miss this one. By the way we start at 6:30 pm.

REFRESHMENTS

Merle Schneck

SET -UP AND CLEAN-UP

Bud Schenke

George Griess

Note: If you can't do this, you need to find someone to take your place. Thanks.

New Members

James E. Dayment

DONATIONS

A newly rebuilt Craftsman lathe was donated to the club by an anonymous donor in memory of Dick Woodhouse's sister who recently passed away. It is a wonderful gift and will be put to use right away.

JULY SATURDAY WORKSHOP

Soren Bergers seminar and work shop at Farris Machinery were a rip roaring success. Everyone who participated, came away from the seminar a better turner. Soren concentrated on proper tool use, and then turned a few pieces including spheres and his famous dipper. At our August meeting President Woodhouse thanked John Shackelford for all his help in organizing and running the Berger workshops. John logged many hours to assure the events success. Also a big thanks to Farris Machinery for hosting us.

OCTOBER MEETING

Our October meeting will once again be the clubs annual auction. All members are encouraged to participate in this important fund raising event. Many new woodworking tools will be available for bid, and as in the past if you have any

club. The bowl was turned by club

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Surplus woodworking items in your own shop that you would like to donate to the auction bring those also. Most importantly bring yourself and your wallet.

SHOW AND TELL

-Merle Schneck recently attended the John Campbell turning school and brought in several items he completed at the school. Merle thought the training was excellent and highly recommends it. Good job Merle

-Bob Davis showed a cedar bowl, a cocobolo goblet and a box turned from "Bob Davis" wood. He used cocobolo shavings and epoxy glue to form the turning blank.

-Kevin Neelley showed an outstanding segmented bowl from curly maple and bubinga. No one in the country does better segmented work than Kevin.

-Kenny Gorseline showed two pens he recently created, one segmented and the second one a miniature pen utilizing a cutdown cross refill. Good work

-Bud Schenke showed an attractive vase from Ambrosia Maple that he acquired while a member of another club and also a nice walnut bowl that he turned. All great work

-Russ Blaser showed a hollow vessel from Manzanita Burl with a lacquer finish. All very well done.

-Anthony Harris brought in lots, including numerous small boxes with threaded lids, a small clock box, a large hollow vessel from Honey Locust and a threaded pedestal box from lignum, made in about six pieces and threaded together. Very creative work

WEB SITE

Have you checked out our web site? It can be found at: www.kcwoodturners.org.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

President Woodhouse presented a Beech bowl to John Drably, with Builders Resource. We really appreciate the meeting space they make available to our

members from the infamous Art Institute tree.

WOODCRAFT

September is woodturning month at Woodcraft and on Sept. 8 a special day is planned. All their lathes will be set up for customers to try them out (bring your own wood and tools). You can call Bill Coomer at Woodcraft for full details. 913-599-2800

SPECIAL MEMBER BENEFITS

In addition to sandpaper our club is now offering CA glue in thin and medium viscosity along with the accelerator. These items can be purchased from Treasurer Gruis at any regular club meeting.

Two Drying Methods For Green Timber Turning

by Simon Waters

There are few things as frustrating as having timber you have worked hard to collect, end-seal and store, crack and split. Either you have to rethink your use for the timber by making a smaller project or, as is often the case, the cracking is so severe the timber is rendered useless and suitable only for firewood.

There are many theories about how best to go about drying timber but for various reasons these do not always suit a lot of hobbyist turners. For example, purpose built drying sheds or ones with fans at one end are a good idea and can yield a good success rate of uncracked timber. But they are expensive to build, take up room on your section and worst of all the timber takes years to dry. It has been suggested that when drying timber a rule of thumb is allow one year for every inch of thickness. That means to make a six inch deep fruit bowl a turner needs to wait six years - and that's if the wood doesn't crack. This is hardly suitable for a lot of turners.

Many woodturners, hobbyists especially, have resisted the move towards green timber turning. As their time in the workshop is often limited they prefer the immediacy of being able to finish a piece in one session which dry timber allows. Green timber on the other hand needs roughing out, putting away for a while, then finishing another day and invariably the shape they first had in mind has vanished out the window when they return to their dry roughed out blank.

But there are also advantages. Green timber turning can revolutionise a person's approach to woodturning. Any preferences for making items in one session does not have to be compromised simply by sacrificing a day turning green blanks to build up what will in a very short time become a good bank of dry rough turned items to choose from. The quantum leap many may experience in chisel techniques by turning timber wet can also be very satisfying. The ribbons of shavings fly off the chisel with ease and the speed you can achieve is electrifying.

Once a blank has been roughed out green there are

[ing.co.nz/archives/drying.html](http://www.nzta.co.nz/archives/drying.html)

a variety of techniques to go about drying it, all of which take a fraction of the time it takes to dry thick solid blanks of timber. While cracking may still occur from time to time it is a rare event, especially after a turner becomes familiar with a particular drying technique. In any event cracks on roughed out pieces can often be turned into a feature or perhaps hidden with the right blend of glue and saw dust. Some of the drying techniques include soaking blanks in a solution of PEG - a wax based agent which forces moisture from the timber and replaces it with wax. Others include burying blanks in shavings, or putting them in plastic bags or ventilated light-bulb lit cupboards to dry, while some turners have found success with variations of drying projects in the microwave.

Two other methods, one using boiling water and the other fire, are used daily by two of New Zealand's leading woodturners Gael Montgomerie of Motueka and Rick Taylor from Orewa. Rick's fire drying technique suits artistic turning particularly as after taking the walls down to the finished thickness it can warp and buckle the work in a very effective way whilst drawing the moisture from the timber. Gael's method of boiling the roughed out blank on the other hand is useful for drying the blank when movement of the timber is not required. Both methods take very little effort or expense, are very effective and best of all achieve quick results.

Boil Drying

Gael says she first learned of this boil drying method from Jim Wilson in Dunedin in about 1989. She says it is very useful for speeding up the processing time of Sycamore which discolours rapidly. The process works just as well for other species.

METHOD:

1. Rough out blanks to about 25mm thickness.
2. Immerse in boiling water for at least 30 minutes. It doesn't matter whether you put the blank in cold water and heat it up or immerse it straight into ready boiling water.
3. For thicker blanks allow more time in boiling water - say 45 minutes.
4. Once boiled you can either cool blanks in cold water or take out directly (tongs are a good idea) and place in a shady place til cool. Once cool stack on edge in racks in timber shed.

NB: Gael says Jim found at 20 degrees (in his kitchen) blanks dried in about 10 days. She, however, leaves blanks for two or three weeks in her timber shed then a week to 10 days in her warmer

workshop before finishing. Again weighing timber is a useful way of determining whether or not is has dried sufficiently.

GADGETRY: Gael uses an electrically heated wash boiler which takes pieces up to 450mm in diameter. She fills it with water, turns it on and starts rough turning. She stacks each piece in as it is done and as each batch is cooking she turns the next batch. Gael covers the boiler with a lid and puts bricks on top to

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**FREE
BACK
ISSUES**

Handwritten note: *Keep it from popping off with the water is boiling.*