



# Nor-Cal Shavings

Newsletter of the Nor-Cal Woodturners  
An American Association of Woodturners Affiliate

<http://www.norcalwoodturners.org>

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**May 2010**

## President's Message

Do your part!!! Make Norm's life a bit easier! Bring an item(s) to the May general membership meeting for display at the Davis library. We've been doing this for several years so let's keep the club commitment intact. I have never had a problem with getting my items returned; I think that is because of the commitment of the gathers for the display. Job well done in the past by many people that were part of the club from long ago. A few names to commend are Bill Flewelling and Charles Brownold from Davis, Norm Hinman, our editor, and Dan Clark, our treasurer, and many, many more.

Also a challenge to you. Are you staying informed by checking out our website on a regular basis. Martin Harris is doing a superb job. Make sure the club has your correct email address. Check with Dan Clark if you're not sure. He'll have the latest roster there for your review. Also we have a few members that need to get their 2010 dues in.

Now, the next challenge is a bigger challenge for us, your elected board members. We've taken survey's in the past about what you'd like to see at the meetings. Not only topics but the suggestion for more great programs. Look in the mirror. Do you see a face that you still recognize? Good! Maybe that face has a program to present for the good of the club. Not too many of you have jumped up at a meeting and said I'll do 'such and such' program. But, if you do have something to present, let a board member know, or our programs chairman (Ted Young) especially, or I'd be glad to listen. We have two commitments for future programs, but they are for later in the year. We need help now. Because of the time constraints put upon us by the time schedule of the senior center, a short program will fit in nicely. Several of you thanked me for

getting us out on time last meeting. I think there is a message there somewhere!

I really appreciated those of you that brought tips, fixtures, jigs, ideas to the last meeting. However, the number of presenters was less than I had hoped for. Either my bad idea for a program, or my belief is that there are many more of you out there that can share ideas with the club. I especially appreciated Kirk Stubbs' offer to club members to give him a call and he'll show you his techniques for indexing to make some beautiful items. I hope some of you took (or will take) Kirk up on his offer. It is a real treat to spend some time in Kirk's shop. I'll be giving Kirk a call shortly.

It has been a busy month for several members in the club. I'm looking forward to a report from some of the attendees of the Utah Woodturning Symposium. Many of us will have enjoyed the class by Dale Larson, and hopefully you'll have had some time to turn another treasured item for the Member's gallery.

**Corwin**

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## Nor-Cal Woodturners

Ethel MacLeod Hart Senior Center  
915 27th Street, Sacramento CA  
Between I and J Streets

General Meetings on the **4th Tuesday** at 6:45 p.m.

### Roster of Officers 2010

**President:** Corwin Jones Phone: 209-951-4622  
Email: jones.corwin@comcast.net

**V. President:** Ted Young Phone: 916-574-9117  
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**Library Asst.** Dorothy Brandon Phone: 530-756-9303  
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Email: bret@arrowsprings.com

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**Web Master:** Martin Harris Phone: 916-455-8385  
Email: himself@martinthe Turner.info

**Equip. Mgr:** Ron Winterton Phone: 916-834-6635  
Email: vfrfv40@yahoo.com

## Mentors

LOCATION	NAME	PHONE
Auburn	Dan Clark	530-878-0931
<b>Christmas ornaments, Cheese and Cracker Plates</b>		
Citrus Heights	Herb Medsger	916-725-3120
<b>Miniatures, Hollow vessels &amp; Embellishments</b>		
Davis	Bill Flewelling	530-753-2664
<b>General turning of most types, Natural edge</b>		
Granite Bay	Tom Castaldo	916-791-7544
<b>Christmas orn., Natural edge, Texturing &amp; Boxes</b>		
Roseville	Phil Sargent	916-789-1172
<b>Natural edge vessels, General Turning</b>		
Yuba City	Norm Hinman	530-673-5056
<b>Basic Bowl, Basic Spindle and Natural Edge.</b>		

The Mentor program is available to members who have questions about, and/or problems with, turning, Nor-Cal programs, and to get a better 'feel' for the club. Check in with the Mentor(s) in your area of interest (or geography) and get acquainted!

## Mini Woodturning Workshops

The workshop at Norm Hinman's shop on Saturday, May 29 is filled.

*Dues for the calendar year are \$35 per member and \$10 for spouse (if they desire to join) Commercial memberships are available for \$50 per year. This membership includes yearly advertising in the newsletter. Ads are to be business card size and may be changed from month to month. Contact Treasurer Dan Clark for more membership information. Newsletter deadline is the tenth of each month. All submissions should be sent to **Nor-Cal Woodturners, Norm Hinman, 302 Peck Ave., Yuba City, CA 95991. E-mail to: nhinman@yahoo.com***

*Proprietary names which may be included herein are for information purposes only, and no endorsement of any particular product or supplier mentioned or criticism of others not mentioned by Nor-Cal Woodturners is implied.*

# CALENDAR

2010

- May 25 - General Meeting. 6:45 PM  
 Norm Hinman: Wood harvesting and selection for turning.  
 President's Challenge: Make a Box.  
 Auction of pieces by Cindy Drozda and Bob Rosand.
- June 1 (Tues.) - Board Meeting. (6:00 dinner, 7:00 meeting) Denney's 3rd. & J
- June 22 - General Meeting. 6:45 PM  
 Mike Spanbauer: Chainsaw, Lathe and Bandsaw safety.  
 Raffle.
- June 28 - Board Meeting. (6:00 dinner, 7:00 meeting) Denney's 3rd. & J
- July 14-Aug 1 - California State Fair
- July 27 - General Meeting. 6:45 PM  
 Program TBD (Ice Cream Social?)  
 President's Challenge: Turn a Utility Item.  
 Auction of pieces by David Ellsworth and Bob Rosand.
- Aug 2 - Board Meeting. (6:00 dinner, 7:00 meeting) Denney's 3rd. & J
- Aug 24 - General Meeting. 6:45 PM  
 Program TBD.  
 Raffle.
- Aug 30 - Board Meeting. (6:00 dinner, 7:00 meeting) Denney's 3rd. & J
- Sept 28 - General Meeting. 6:45 PM  
 Nomination of Officers.  
 Program TBD.  
 President's Challenge: "Bowling Gone Wild".  
 Auction of pieces by David Ellsworth and Jimmy Clewes.
- Oct 4 - Board Meeting. (6:00 dinner, 7:00 meeting) Denney's 3rd. & J
- Oct 26 - General Meeting. 6:45 PM  
 Election of Officers.  
 Program TBD.  
 Raffle.
- Nov 1 - Board Meeting. (6:00 dinner, 7:00 meeting) Denney's 3rd. & J
- Dec (?) Christmas party? Date TBD

## LAST MEETING

Members brought in examples of their shop-made items that assist them in doing what they do. Each one described, briefly but in sufficient detail to allow viewers to 'take home' the prescient information, what his/her item is, how it was made, what it does, how it is used and why it was developed.

## NEXT MEETING

Norm Hinman will discuss, and show, within allowable physical parameters considering the meeting's indoor environment, his method(s) of extracting the most usable portions of a log for turning. How to get to the good stuff, and why to eliminate the rest will be considered. Some of us turn bowls, some of us turn spindles and some of us dry, saw, plane, sand and glue pieces together. There are parts of a log for each of us.

## JOHN JORDAN CHALLENGE PROJECT

After we have a demo, we ask the attendees to design and finish a project much within the guidelines of what we were taught by the demonstrator. We will hold the John Jordan challenge in the month of June. Bring something ala John Jordan to the June meeting for review. Since many of you may have seen John Jordan at another venue, or read literature, or watched his DVD's, join us in this challenge to broaden our turning skills. Nothing ventured, nothing gained!!!

## Davis Library Display

Don't forget to bring samples of your turnings to the May meeting. Norm Hinman will collect them for the Davis Library Display. The display will run during the month of June. The pieces will be returned at the July meeting.

## NEWS & NOTES

### Nor-Cal Woodturners welcomes

#### New Members:

(No new members this month)

#### Attendance

72 attended the March meeting.

#### Membership:

On May 13th. Nor-Cal membership stood at:

92

(Down 15.6% from this date last year.)

### Notes from the Library

Library materials may be checked out by members for one month at a time. There is a 50 cent fee for each book or magazine and a \$1.00 fee for each DVD or VHS tape that is checked out. There is a limit of three library items that may be checked out at any one time. Be sure to return the items at the next meeting.

### Greenwood Sealer

Greenwood sealer is available in **5-gallon** quantities only. If you want smaller quantities, get in touch with some of your turning buddies and split 5-gallons among yourselves. For the near future, at least, contact Dwight Rutherford to obtain it. If you need it posthaste, give Dwight a call at 916-783-5082 and go to his house at 1407 Hermitage Way, Roseville, 95661. Otherwise, give Dwight a call, and he will bring it to the next meeting.

#### ROSTER REMINDER

If you are not getting your newsletter it may be that your address or email address has changed. Notify Dan Clark (at the Treasurer's desk)

#### Participation Raffle Update

Our Participation Raffle is a way to encourage people to participate in the club. It also is a way we can say Thank You to those who are involved with NorCal. Whenever you bring an item to the Member's Gallery, President's Challenge or donate some wood (or other item) to the Bi-Monthly Raffle you will get a ticket to the Participation Raffle. You need to print your name on the back of that ticket and turn it in to enter the Raffle. We will have three drawings this year: at our meetings in April, July and October. The prizes will be a \$ 40 gift certificate for 1st Place; \$ 20 Gift Certificate for 2nd Place and 4 people will receive a new Tool Roll. The more you participate the better your chances of winning!

**Chris Smith**

#### Missing Participation Raffle Tickets

If you were in the March President's Challenge we may have not given you a ticket for the Participation Raffle. Please email Chris at [SacWoodTurning@att.net](mailto:SacWoodTurning@att.net) with your name and address. He will make sure to put a ticket in the next Raffle for you.

**Chris Smith**

#### Bulletin Board Help Needed

We will be having a Bulletin Board at our monthly meetings where we can post information: Things for Sale; Wood Available; Upcoming Classes and other items of interest to our members. We have one person taking care of it currently. We need a couple more people to help by posting items that people email to you and bringing the board to the meetings. It's a pretty easy job but it could really help inform our members about what's going on. Please call Chris Smith at (916) 930-0922 or email [SacWoodTurning@att.net](mailto:SacWoodTurning@att.net) ASAP if you can help. Thanks so much.

**Chris Smith**

### **New Benefits of AAW Membership!**

- All current AAW members now have online access through the AAW website to every issue of American Woodturner. All twenty-five years!
- The AAW is now offering a full membership for \$38 per year to members who would prefer to read American Woodturner and the resource directory online, through the AAW website. This membership provides a major cost savings to anyone wishing full membership, and preferring to read the journal and access the resource directory online.
- Beginning in March 2010, there will be a monthly drawing for a variety of prizes, generously provided by our business members and supporters. Thereafter, at the end of each month, names will be randomly drawn from the current membership roster and all available prizes awarded.

For more information, see page 4 of the April 2010 issue of the American Woodturner or [www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org).

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### **Additional refinement of the Participation Raffle**

At the last GM meeting, a suggestion was made to expand the Participation Raffle tickets given out at a general meeting to include all the 'workers or contributors' at a meeting. As promised, I brought it up before the board at the latest board meeting. Your board decided that the suggestion was commendable and the logistics of handing out the tickets was one issue. We think that can be resolved by having a single person handing out the participation raffle tickets. As of the last meeting James Terrill kindly volunteered for that job. It would be nice if another person will volunteer to be back up to James if he would be absent. Any volunteers? The second issue was a decision that the additional tickets would not be handed out to any of the elected officers, board, etc. We feel that we are just doing the job for which we were elected. I know this runs counter to all the juicy benefits that our elected state or national representative vote to extend to themselves but we feel that maybe that helps set our club above those other bodies.

In summary, James Terrill will be attempting to be fair in giving out the participation raffle tickets. If you feel you deserve one, check with James if he missed giving you one that was deserved. Good Luck!!! **Corwin Jones**

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### **A day with a mentor**

by **Craig Milliron**

For those of you that have had a chance to get instruction from one of our club mentors you know what a wealth of generous knowledge they have to share with us all. Even though I have only been woodturning a short time, I have come to realize that the more I learn, the more I realize just how much more there is I want to learn. It is true that if you experiment and practice, practice, practice, you will eventually figure a lot out by yourself. I figure that if I can constantly turn over the next fifty years, I would not learn many of the valuable tips, tricks, and techniques that any one of our wonderful mentors could show me in just a single day. If I learn something new and special today, I can apply it today, where otherwise I might not have worked it out for perhaps a decade.

I have taken lessons from Bill Flewelling, our president Corwin Jones and most recently, our news letter editor Norm Hinman. The value of what all three taught me changed my life. This may sound like a rather dramatic statement, but to me it is very true. I love woodturning. If I'm not turning, I'm thinking about it. What I learned from all three mentors demystified many things, eliminated a lot of frustration, gave me the ability to do more advanced work and absolutely elevated my enjoyment. What more could you ask for?

Bill taught me what a bowl gouge was for, how to make a box and how to properly sharpen my tools when I thought I already knew. I was happy and ignorant before then. Now I'm not so ignorant and a lot happier.

Corwin solved my very frustrating problem with my gouge running back when beginning the cut inside a bowl. I had to redesign the top to a lot of bowls before that.

Most recently, in the class taught by Norm that I

attended along with Tony White and Dwight Rutherford we all learned several important tricks before the lathe was even turned on. Norm selected one of his nearly eighteen hundred roughed out bowls for a demonstration. This one was dated 1988. Norm has been doing this for awhile. The bowl of course was warped, but definitely dry. I had always heard and read that when re-turning a bowl it should be put between centers and the tenon trued up. Norm showed us how to effectively work around this step. He started by positioning the chuck with one of its jaws straight down. He then set the oval tenon on the bottom chuck jaw with the long direction of the oval aligned to up and down. With this chuck jaw position and tenon orientation, mounting the bowl was easy and assured the best grip possible, for only two of the four jaws will hold an oval tenon. Unless the tenon is very narrow, each jaw actually makes contact in two locations - two jaws, four locations. Depending on the blank size, this should usually be adequate, as the bowl blank is considerably smaller and lighter after it was roughed out and dried.

The next trick was to mark the bottom of the bowl with a new center dimple, as the original one moved off center after warping. This was done so the tailstock center point can align the bowl to Norm's vacuum chuck. Norm's sophisticated vacuum pump is a \$40 shop vacuum and it works just fine. For marking the center of the tenon, Norm uses a steel rod sharpened to a point that he pushes through the headstock spindle. He turns on the lathe at slow speed and gently presses the point into the bottom of the bowl. The steel rod has a close tolerance within the spindle, but not so close that it turned when the spindle turned. On one of his other lathes, one with a different spindle bore diameter, he uses a wooden dowel with a nail driven into the end and sharpened to do the same thing. In other words, Norm simply made effective tools with materials at hand and no additional cost. If this was all I learned that day I would have been happy, but there was lots more. One other thing I'll share with you is about sanding. Norm uses 3" sanding disks on 2" sanding mandrels. He offsets

the center of the disk relative to the center of the mandrel so the edge of the disk is less than 1/4" from the edge of the mandrel. At first I thought this misalignment was a mistake. Then I saw the genius of it. 3" regular style disks costs a lot less than 2" wave disks. The oversize disk flexes away from the wood, preventing damage. The eccentric rotation caused by the off center alignment of the disk to the mandrel prevents the edge of the disk from creating a groove in the wood and riding in it, which would make it deeper and deeper. When that part of the disks fills, just relocate the mandrel across to another part of the disk. It's almost as good as putting on a new disk. I would never have thought of that myself.

You can watch videos, you can read books and you can travel across the country to seminars, or you can spend a delightful day with a fellow club member learning valuable hands on information you just can't get elsewhere. And the friendships you will develop and strengthen are priceless. So take advantage of the classes our club offers. Call a mentor for one-on-one help. They wouldn't hang their shingle if they didn't want to share and didn't love to turn as much as you do.

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## MEMBERS' GALLERY



Phil Sargent's wormy Walnut bowl



Phil Sargent's Cedar bread bowl



Phil Sargent's Honey Locust/Mistletoe bowl with textured rim



Phil Sargent's Maple burl quadruple bowl



Tony White's Apple bowl



Bob McClurg's salt & pepper grinders of exotic woods.



Jay Richens' Pink Ivory box



Jay Richins' Walnut burl bowl



Barry Hanna's hollow vessel with  
Ebony insert



James Terrill's Walnut bowl and two  
Walnut winged bowls



Barry Hanna's hollow vessel  
with Ebony insert



Craig Milliron's Maple burl bowl



John Landis' Walnut (firewood) tool handle



Don Hendricks' Walnut platter



Don Hendricks' Walnut bowl



Corwin Jones' natural edged Pecan bowl  
with tree design decoration



Phil Manning's Ash bowl




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Hrs: M-T-W-F: 9am - 7pm, Th: 9am - 9pm, Sat: 9am - 6pm, Sun: 12pm - 5pm

Address Correction Requested

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