Hello every one I hope you’re enjoying this beautiful warm, sunny weather we’re experiencing, I’ve even heard it described as hot, real hot, darned hot, and you guessed it, the big one “%#!€!” Hot! It’s July in Sacramento. Gotta love it.

Well, I hope you have made time for the professional demo at Woodcraft this coming Wednesday, the 27th at 9:00 am until 4:30. We’ll have the AC running to keep us cool. I think at last count there is still room, so let’s get going and support our club, Ra Ra Ra. How’s that for cheerleading? Actually, I don’t want you to miss any opportunity to be with your friends at Nor-Cal.

I guess I’ll have to keep bringing up the fact that the end of the year is in sight and we could use some volunteers to give some of the more experienced board members a little more time for Woodturning. I’m going to start asking people who regularly come to the meetings to step up to help with the running of our great club. We have shaved the board meeting down to just a shadow of its former self, so you typically only need to get there an hour before the meeting. Please give it some thought, and consideration.

I have noticed that the number of pieces for the members gallery might be a little smaller than in the past. Everyone is interested in what you’re doing, no matter the skill level. Another member might be able to give you a few pointers. Woodturners genuinely like to help others. And you more advanced turners, I just love to see what you’re able to accomplish, it gives me hope. Maybe someday......

Let us not forget about the raffle. Remember the rafflers motto; "Buy early and Buy often". Maybe bring in a piece or two of wood that might have potential. Become involved, it's there for the taking. Gotta run for now, but always know, I thank you for letting me be president of our club.

Tony White
Nor-Cal Woodturners

General Meetings
Leo Palmiter School
2040 Ethan Way, Sacramento CA
Enter Parking lot off Cottage Way
4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM

Board of Directors Meetings
Board meets at 5:30 PM the day of the General Meeting in the General Meeting room or one of the nearby shop or classrooms.

Members are invited to the Board Meetings

Roster of Officers 2014

President: Tony White
President@NorCalWoodturners.org 916-206-9264

Vice-President: Jimmy Corbin
JCorbinjr2002@yahoo.com 916-842-7882

Secretary: Dan Oen
onemail335@gmail.com 916-288-8447

Treasurer: Steve Cabrol
sbcabrol@earthlink.net 530-672-8833

Communication Director: Craig Milliron
CraigM@ArrowSprings.com 530-409-9197

Librarian: Hank Wilson
HankGoFish@yahoo.com 916-671-9120

Member-at-Large: Dwight Rutherford
DwightRutherford@hotmail.com 916-783-5082

Member-at-Large: Ted Young
TedYoung61@yahoo.com 916-574-9117

Member-at-Large: Judy Prichard
Judy.Prichard@comcast.net 530-851-1170

Member-at-Large: Neal DeVore
Neal DeVore@yahoo.com 916-253-7208

Member-at-Large: Shann Galuza
SGaluza2k@yahoo.com 916-990-0837

Membership Information
Dues for the calendar year are $35 per member and $10 for spouse. 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.

Mentors

Cameron Park – Jim Terrill
Penmaking
530-417-0888

Cameron Park - Richard Bell
Hollow Forms
530-677-3341

Granite Bay - Tom Castaldo
916-791-7544
Christmas Ornaments, Natural Edge Vessels, Texturing and Boxes

Lincoln – Neal DeVore
916-253-7208
Christmas Ornaments, Natural Edge Vessels, Texturing and Boxes

Nevada City – Bill Juhl
530-263-6602
530-265-0203 Bowls, General Turning, Vessels, Coring, Tool Sharpening, Large Work

Roseville – Phil Sargent
916-789-1172
Natural Edge Vessels, General Turning

Sacramento – Chris Smith
916-712-6979
Penmaking, Bottle Stoppers, Beginning Turning

Stockton - Corwin Jones
209-951-4622
General Turning

Yuba City - Norm Hinman
530-673-5056
Basic Bowl, Basic Spindle and Natural Edge Vessels

The Mentor program is available to members who have questions or problems with turning and would like verbal or hands-on help. Check in with the Mentor(s) in your area of interest and get acquainted!

Woodturning Workshops

Sign up at the General Meeting for a three-on-one workshop with Nor-Cal Woodturners’ Mentor Norm Hinman, held at his shop. Each member has use of a full size lathe, plus expert instruction and guidance for the day. FREE and includes materials and use of tools. Phone: 530-673-5056.

Bowls Galore@yahoo.com

The next Norm Hinman Saturday class will be Saturday, July 30th, 9-4.

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.

Newsletter Information

Newsletter deadline is the 10th of each month. Send submissions to CraigM@ArrowSprings.com.
Woodworking Club News
This section of our newsletter is to keep you informed of news about activities relating to turning and other woodworking.

Gold Country Woodturners
Meetings held at 6:30 on the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Elks Lodge, 518 Hwy 49, Nevada City, CA. Check out their “video of the month” at www.goldturners.com

North Valley Woodturners
Meets in Durham, CA. Contact Lynn Shoger at Lynn.Shoger@att.net

Bay Area Woodturners Association
They meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month in Pleasant Hill. Check out their website and newsletters at www.bayareawoodturners.org

Segmented Woodturners
This is a “virtual” club you can reach at http://segmentedwoodturners.org/
Jim Rodgers, President.

Sacramento Area Woodworkers (SAW)
Meetings held at the Senior Center at 7:00 pm the 1st Tuesday of each month

Calendar of Events
June 26 - General Meeting 6:30 pm
Leo Palmiter School, 2040 Ethan Way, Sac. Ice Cream Social annual event.

June 26 - Board Meeting 5:30 pm
Held at Leo Palmiter School the day of the General Meeting.

Jul 27 - Sharon Doughtie Professional Demonstration.
See club website for details and Sharon’s website for examples.

Turning Workshop 4:30 – 6:30
Held at Leo Palmiter School the day of the General Meeting when announced and not conflicting with other events.

Phil Sargent Workshop
Call Phil at 916-789-1172 for signup.

Norm Hinman Workshop
See information and time for Norm’s class on right-hand bottom of page 2.

Share Your Knowledge
One of the great things about Nor-Cal is the wealth of knowledge our members have. Another is that everyone is willing to share that knowledge. If you have a "specialty" or even just a turning project that has "turned out" well, please consider sharing that by demonstrating at one of our club meetings. It can be a ½ hour demo (and we'll combine it with someone else) or a one hour demo. For those who haven't demonstrated before, we have added a page to our website titled "How To for Demonstrators". It's under the Members Only section at the bottom. Please consider helping the club by sharing your knowledge. Just let Tony or Jimmy know and they will get you on the schedule.

Newsletter Articles
Got a great idea you want to share with your fellow Woodturners? Whether it is a turning tool, turning technique, finishing process or anything at all related to turning, your Nor-Cal Woodturners newsletter can always use an article. If you have pictures, all the better. If you need help writing it up or taking pictures, we’re here to help. That’s what our club is all about - sharing.

Contact either the club president or newsletter editor.
President Tony White
Phone: 1(916) 206-9264
Email: President@NorCalWoodturners.org

Newsletter Editor Craig Milliron
Phone: 1(530) 409-9197
Email: CraigM@ArrowSprings.com
Amazon Smiles
Nor-Cal Woodturners is pleased to participate in Amazon’s “Smile” donation program. Amazon donates ½% of the purchase price for items made by individuals who name the Club as their selected recipient. In the first quarter of our participation, Amazon donated $24.35 to the Club. Thank you Amazon!

There is no cost to our Club or to the purchaser and once you register your preferences with Amazon, you don’t need to do anything else – just shop away! The easiest way to register is via the link on our website at www.norcalwoodturners.org.

Steady Rest
Alternative
This is a quick alternative to keep from burning your finger when trying to steady a thin spindle. I use 3/8"- or 3/4"-thick Ultra High Molecular Weight Polyethylene (UHMW-PE), available at Woodcraft and other suppliers. With a strip about 4" long, cut a 3"-long slot at one end. Then cut aligned V-notches about 1/4" from the end on the inside faces as shown in the photo. Slip the strip over the spindle and use your fingers to squeeze it around the spindle. This lets you apply more pressure to suppress chatter without burning your fingers.

David Reed Smith
Hampstead, MD

More Woodturning Magazine
More Woodturning Magazine is a monthly online magazine that contributes an article and an Events Calendar Events Listing to Nor-Cal Woodturners each month. It is for turners who primarily turn wood. It is designed to provide educational material and guidance in woodturning techniques and to keep you informed about what is happening in the woodturning world.

There is also a free sample edition for you to enjoy. It has tutorials, articles, product reviews and a turner profile. I promise, you will be impressed.
http://www.morewoodturningmagazine.com

Comprehensive list of woodturning Exhibitions and Symposiums with dates, locations and full descriptions.

More Woodturning Magazine Events Calendar Listing
http://norcalwoodturners.org/resources/Documents/More%20Woodturning%20Magazine/EventsCalendarListing.pdf
Make a Walking Stick

By Fred Holder

When I was younger and my wife and I did a lot of camping and hiking in the woods, I used to pick up a suitable stick around 5 to 6 feet long and about 1-1/2 inches in diameter at the largest end and use it for stability along the trail. It helped to push you up hill when you were climbing and it helped to put a brake on when you were descending a slope. I generally adopted this stick for the duration of the camping trip if it was a good one. I then discarded it when we went home.

Well, we don’t go camping anymore and I don’t hike on hillsides, but I do still walk along side of the road and sometimes the uneven ground makes one a bit unsteady. I had thought of making a walking stick for several years. A couple of months ago the bug got even stronger.

I selected some dogwood square stock that I had and began to work on my walking stick. I wanted it to be about 5 feet long and about 1-1/2 inch in diameter at the hand hold area, but I also wanted to be able to take it in the car should I wish to go hiking in the hills. This meant at least one join.

I didn’t think that the brass joins available for canes would be heavy enough for my walking stick. Initially, I made up a join out of lignum vitae, but it didn’t work out, because as I got the female portion down to size, it was too thin to stand up to the pressure and cracked. It was redesign time! I decided that a 3/4” pipe coupling should be about the right size. I made up two male threaded pieces out of lignum vitae with 3/4” tapered pipe threads on one end and a tenon on the other to join to the walking stick. I had an insert out of a pipe threading machine, so I clamped this into a pair of vice grips and used it as a thread chaser to chase the threads. The iron coupling looked ghastly, according to my wife. So a visit to the hardware store turned up a brass coupling with a hex exterior shape. She didn’t like that either.

I mounted a piece of Osage Orange in one of my Nova chucks and chased a thread for the coupling. Using a 1/8” parting tool, I faced off the end of the coupling until it was square with the threads, reversed it so the faced off end was against the shoulder on my holding chuck. Now, both ends were square to the threads. Using the 1/8” parting tool, I then turned away the hex shape of the coupling, sanded and polished. It looked great on the walking stick and my wife was happy with it too.

My join worked well and looked good and was strong. The only weak part was the glue and lignum vitae. It finally took epoxy to hold. I made two more walking sticks with somewhat improved joints using lignum, but I believe that I would settle for boxwood if I make anymore.

Because a lot of my walking is done on pavement, I chose to use a rubber crutch tip on the ground end. They come in black and blond-the blond looked better on the dogwood walking stick, black might look better on a different wood.

Rather than try to make the wood of the stick blend in perfectly with the brass coupling, I placed a bead on either side of the coupling. This gave the coupling a shoulder to butt against and gave a perfect fit. The wood above and below the beads was turned to look like a
continuation right through the coupling. I also felt the stick should have some form of texturing for a better grip in the grip area. I toyed with a couple of different ideas, but finally settled on a section about 9-1/2" long made up of 1/4" beads. I have a Robert Sorby beading tool that made this job fairly easy. This worked very well and I've used it to good effect on the other two walking sticks that I've made.

Even though these pieces were only about 29-30 inches long, I had to use a steady rest to stabilize the wood for turning. On small things like lace bobbins and treen, one can normally stabilize it with their fingers. I simply couldn't do so on something this size.

The top part of the walking stick has no function other than decoration. However, the beaded section between the two large beads serves a very useful purpose of providing an excellent hand hold area. I made this section about 9-1/2" long, because that was about right for my tool rest. I could bead the whole area without moving the tool rest. The join was made with two threaded pieces of lignum vitae and a 3/4" brass pipe coupling. The threads are 14 tpi chased with a die insert held with vice grips.

Harold Swanson, a friend who was helping me demonstrate and tend the booth at my last craft show, shows off one of my walking sticks in front of our booth.
A letter opener is a favorite project in beginner classes I teach. And because it's an ideal project to develop skew skills, I encourage turners to detail the entire beaded handle using only a skew chisel.

For turning stock, I look for a closed grain wood that takes a good edge. Hard maple (plain, birdseye, or curly), cherry, apple, pear, plum, Osage orange and dogwood make good choices from domestic stock. Among exotic woods, fine options include cocobolo, boxwood, goncalo alves, tulipwood, and kingwood.

The size is somewhat a design question of proportions as well as a preference for what would feel good in the hand of the user. Turn several prototypes to work out the balance, look, and feel. I have settled on a 9” overall length and 7/8” at its greatest diameter. The rough blank should be slightly larger in diameter and about 10” in length.

Turn the opener
After making a cylinder (using either a roughing gouge or skew chisel), determine the handle length. I normally fit it to my hand, so the handle in this case was about 4” long. The handle detailing is what moves this project from simple to challenging.

Design the handle with an arching form—probably with a bead at the blade end and some finishing detail for the end of the handle. For added handle detail, try adding a series of beads or coves with either a 3/8” detailing gouge or 1/2” skew chisel. It is often more interesting to vary the size of these details rather than making them all exactly the same.

Finalize the handle area by
sanding to at least 220 grit. For the blade area, I usually turn with a greater diameter in the middle and taper towards the handle and the tip, which adds visual interest.

**Shape the blade**
Rather than rough-shape the blade on a bandsaw, I prefer the safer route of sanding the blade into its final shape using the lathe. A small disc sander works quite well for this operation. A 5” plywood disc mounted on a faceplate or in a chuck makes for a quick sanding system, as does a 5” hard rubber disc mounted in a Jacobs-style chuck in the headstock.

I initially shape the blade with 80 grit, followed by 100, 120, 150, 160, and 220 grits. The basic shape is one of being thicker in the centerline of the blade and tapering to the two cutting edges. Strive for a sharp edge but one that is not so fragile and prone to chipping. The end of the blade needs to taper to a point that is easy to insert into the end of an envelope. Complete the final sanding by hand.

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**Now, apply finish**
Again, several options are possible depending on the desired look and level of durability. For a film-type finish, pre-catalyzed lacquer (sold as melamine in turning-supply catalogues) produces a tough finish. If using this finish, apply to the handle area on the lathe, then finish the blade by hand after the forming and sanding process.

For an oil finish, be sure and choose one that dries thoroughly. Good choices include pure tung oil, Watco, Defoil, and Nordic oil. I recommend avoiding these oil finishes on light-colored woods unless you don’t mind the amber color that the finish imparts.

On the Osage orange opener shown, I applied a coat of 100 percent pure tung oil every other day until I had completed four coats (light coats, short soaking time, dried off completely, and sanded with 320 grit between coats). After about one week, I lightly buffed the opener with a cotton wheel on a lathe arbor.

Alan Lacer (www.alanlacer.com) is an American Woodturner contributing editor. He lives near River Falls, WI.
Terry Heart
State Fair Winner

Once again, Nor-Cal Woodturners own Terry Heart was a winner in the State Fair “Wood Art” division. He had three winning pieces - Second Place, Fourth Place and an Honorable Mention. Congratulations Terry!
Member's Gallery

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Nor-Cal Shavings
Gallery

Bill Juhl

Ken Martin

Gerald Pierce