

# Turning Times

A publication of the Brazos Valley Wood Turners

*The American Association of Woodturners is "Dedicated to Providing Education, Information and Organization to those Interested In Woodturning." In keeping with the standards of our National Organization, the Brazos Valley Wood Turners hereby gives permission for all other woodturning chapters, organizations, magazines and newspapers to use any materials contained herein for the benefit of all woodturners everywhere. We ask that credit be given for the source if used.*

November 12, 2011

**MONTHLY MEETING:** 9 am November 12 at TSTC, Waco

## DEMONSTRATOR:

Janis Levi will be our demonstrator and she will be making an inside out Christmas ornament. This is a great project and a perfect gift idea for friends and family members.

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

The October retreat was a great success. Everyone had a great time! Thanks to Keeley for use of her shop. Thanks also to Dena, Bill, Ken Taylor and Roger for all their help. We even experienced an unusual experience for Texas—RAIN! James and Keeley's instructional class on converting a battery charger to a burning unit and making a burning tip was great. Bill's class on turning snowmen was very informative and Bill's talent as a teacher and turner was evident again. I was very pleased that everyone taking the pen class successfully completed their pen and were happy with the results. Roger and Larry manned the cutting and sharpening stations and provided expert instructions on tool use, different grinds, and how to sharpen different tools. Melvin brought banana pudding! Enough said! Judy provided assistance to Melvin during the Demos providing written notes when necessary and teaching the use of the spindle gouge. I have heard from Melvin and he is extremely excited about turning snowmen and making bullet pens and is gathering stuff to make them in his shop.

The November meeting will have Janice Levi showing us how she makes Christmas Ornaments. Janice is a great turner and I look forward to her demonstration. I have heard from James Norton and we have agreed to turn 50 rifle cartridge pens for a group in Temple that will distribute them to Veterans. James and I are working out the details and I will send out an e-mail with those details later this week.

Our December Christmas part is just around the corner. Unless someone has a better idea for a location, I assume we will meet at TSTC. I will be working out the details with the committee and will notify you by e-mail and at the November meeting about the plans for the event.

I am issuing a President's Challenge to the member to turn a table decoration for the Christmas Party. The only requirement is that it be a Christmas oriented turning and fit on a table leaving enough space for people to sit and eat.

I hope everybody is maximizing their turning time during

this great weather.

See you in November,

Tom

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

There will not be a December newsletter, but it will return in late December with all that happens at the Christmas Party.

Look for an e-mail from Tom giving party details.

## MEETING NOTES

Treasurer's report noted \$1110.60 on hand but with about \$220 to 250 outstanding in retreat and other expenses.

## OLD BUSINESS

## NEW BUSINESS

James Norton was contacted by the Belton Senior Citizens Center about making pens in recognition of veterans service to America. After some discussion, it was decided that James would take some pen samples to them and have them decide which they wanted. Tom noted that price wise a rifle pen would run about \$5.00 and would be about \$7.50 with a cartridge/wood combination. The rifle pen would be made of 2 cartridges like the one made at the retreat. James didn't know when the Belton center wanted these pens. It was suggested that the club devote some time at the November meeting making these pens.

Ed had a bag of screws which hold adaptors to chuck bodies for OneWay and VicMark chucks. He also had walnut and other wood in his truck for the taking.

Bob had a rubber mat for anyone who wanted it.

The Bring Back and Raffle will continue at the November meeting.

Tom is now in the name tag business. He will be reimbursed for supplies and will be making name tags which will go on lanyards. This allows the club to be very flexible and adding new members and identifying officers and other task masters.

## SAFETY MINUTE/CHUCK CLEANING

Safety minute this month is cleaning your chuck! When your chuck is hard to work or needs a lot of force to make the jaws close, it is probably time to clean it. Keeley demonstrated how to clean a OneWay Talon chuck. The basic principles will apply to any other chuck but READ your chuck's manual and if necessary figure some way to number the parts so they will go back together correctly.

Keeley got this idea from YouTube.

Start by disassembling the chuck, taking off the jaws, slides and any other parts that are supposed to come off. Use an empty coffee can (or similar can) filled partway with mineral spirits or paint brush cleaner and let the parts soak while you make an adapter for the chuck key to be used with your hand drill. Keeley's set up included a turned plug that snugly fit into plastic tubing and a stub to fit the drill. The picture shows the setup. You don't have to make the setup as you can just turn the chuck key but it's a lot more fun to make the setup. First step is to use the chuck key to have the chuck body go through it's full range of movement. Scrub the jaws and the slides with an old toothbrush. Put the jaws on in order. Then place the slides in order and just engaging them. Since we don't usually have a number of hands to help, Keeley used a rubber band to hold the slides into position as she used the chuck key to fully engage the slides with the chuck. The slides should all meet in the center, if they don't take the slides out and try again. Keeley's setup for the chuck key is pictured below.



## OCTOBER RETREAT

There were 17 members and 6 lathes that attended the October Retreat. A fun time was had by all. James and Keeley had making it yourself wood burning set up and did everything from making shaped burners to building your own burning set up with a battery charger. Bill had his bunch making snowmen by first practicing all the cuts they would need. There were some mighty fine little snowmen turned. Tom did a hands on pen making from 2 rifle cartridges. It was "turning" because those making the pens had to drill holes on the lathes. Lunch was catered by HEB and Melvin's wife's banana pudding and other treats.



More pictures are on the website.

## THINGS A' TURNING

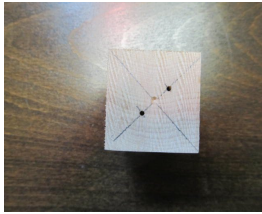
This is the time of year when woodturners often find themselves in a time crunch due to upcoming holidays and the need to come up with something for Great-Auntie Bertha twice removed who's coming for Christmas dinner. What to make? Everyone expects something new and unique. Here's a project that should provide some challenges. On the one hand you have complete design options and on the other hand you have to duplicate that design. This is a good exercise for tool control, repeating sequences of cuts, designing something out of the box, as well as coming up with pretty much one of a kind gift.

These corn cob holders require minimum amounts of wood and some care in selecting the holding nails. With regard to the nails, stainless steel is best and wire nails of around 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 inches are more than adequate. With regard to wood selection, remember that people will be touching the wood and giving cedar holders to someone who is allergic to cedar is probably not a good idea. Woods such as walnut, maple, mesquite, Texas ebony are probably the better choice. Woods such as cocobolo, the rose woods or any that causes skin/lung irritation are probably not a good choice. If you don't want to bother with finding and cleaning up nails, some of the mail order suppliers have corn cob fittings but I think they are pretty pricey. Also when picking the nails, decide if you want to cut off the head or not because you will have to size the hole to fit the nail plus room for the glue to hold it. Alternatively you could decide to not bother with pre-drilling and just knock the nails in and grind the end sticking out into a pointed end. Remember you are the designer.

At the very basic, a corn cob holder is a knob with nails sticking out the business end. The knob needs to be big enough to be easily grasped yet not so big as to be bulky and awkward in use. So many of the little plastic cob holders are on the small size but don't over compensate either. Consider the size as well as length during your design process. You could do a very simple design and use a number of decorative techniques to create a unique object. Another thing to consider is how many to make. Normally these come in pairs but do you want to make 4 pairs that are identical or 4 pairs which are unique pairs? Do you want to use a variety of woods or stick with a favorite? How you design is totally up to you. Some people prefer to draw everything out thus making a very specific pattern; others prefer to design on the fly so to speak and start with a general idea and play with the wood on the lathe and then duplicate that design. Which is better? This is one case where it doesn't really matter as long as you like the end product. Then again, if you are playing with techniques and exploring ideas, they don't have to match and besides there is usually an ear of corn between them.

Wood Preparation and Chucking: I prefer to turn these one at a time simply because I can drill the holes for the

holding nails while the stock is still nice and square. I mark the center point and use a center point drill to make a dimple. Then I move about 1/4" away on both sides and drill holes for the nails. I tend to drill the holes about 1/2" to 3/4" deep which allows me to a little room to finish the business end either by sanding or turning a slightly dished finishing cut. Although I normally would use a chuck, I simply use a spur center and turn between centers.



*In the above picture, is the markings for the nails and the spur center. Also note it's not square.*

**Turning:** Depending on the design, I use whatever tool seems to be the best. I do the sanding on the lathe and depending on what I plan to do, I will either finish on the lathe or do my decorative stuff and finish off the lathe. I then duplicate the first one. Remember even if they are not totally exactly the same, the holders will have an ear of corn between them and usually people are more concerned with the eating than the admiring.

**Finishing:** First of all, whatever nails you have selected need to be completely cleaned of any production oils and grit. I would suggest, again this depends on what you have, using a degreaser, alcohol, bleach, boiling and strong soap and water. **DO NOT USE GALVENIZED NAILS!** Once the nails are totally clean, I would suggest a clear coat of lacquer or nail polish to help prevent transfer of any metals into a food product. In normal usage this would not

be a problem but people do some pretty dumb things and this treatment should protect every body.

Once the nails are cleaned they can be glued into the nob. I use E6000 as it not only fills the gap but seems to hold up under stress. Any gap filling epoxy or CA glue should work fine also.



*The above holders were turned from flet wood (found in Ed's truck) and finished with Beall buffing system.*

---

#### CLUB OFFICERS

President: Tom Dean 903-626-4062

Vice President: Tony Kosta 254-698-6805

Secretary/Treasurer: Norm Burgess 254-772-7032

Event Coordinator: Keeley Guthrie 254-541-5111

Newsletter: Judy Williams 512-293-7479

Webmaster: Larry Walrath 512-255-5329

Liberian/Video: Bill Meador 254-857-9876

Crumpets: Dena Fox 254-666-2777