

# Northwest Woodturners

A Chapter of  
The American Association of Woodturners

Volume 10 Issue 7

July 2006

**Northwest Woodturners** meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. See website for details and map.

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Ed Schneider

**Librarian:**  
Chris Dix

**Raffle:**  
Walt Brown

**Supplies:**  
Jerry Keller

**Newsletter & Web:**  
Owen Lowe  
503-538-5325

Next Meeting:  
**July 6th**  
Turning Challenge:  
**Hollow Forms**  
Wood of the Month:  
**SE Asian Marde**



## President's Corner

Hope everyone who attended the Darlow and Escoulen seminars learned some things. I know that I did. I still can't use the skew or bedan as well as they can, but as Jean François says "practice with this tool for 10 minutes every day for a month and you will be an expert".

As this busy June comes to a close we should probably start looking forward to the next "big" event in Portland. The 2007 AAW national symposium in Portland. As we start preparing for this event there will be lots of volunteers needed to help put together a successful event. I will keep everyone apprised of the goings-on during our regular meetings.

Save up your extra wood for the Wood Auction in August. We will have an outdoor barbeque before the auction starting at 6pm, and then the fun begins. Bring *lots* of cash with you...

It helps support the club, and allows us to bring in professional demonstrators like we had in June.

Safe Turning...  
**Tom Reiman**

PS- OOOOO.....SSSSSS.....UUUUU.....  
Congratulations to all you Beaver fans, who have waited a long time for a National Championship (of any kind) in Baseball.

## Phil Lapp to demonstrate in July

Phil Lapp will describe the principles of design, layout and completion of one of his dramatic winged bowls. Phil is an excellent turner and a long time member of our club, some of you may remember one of his dramatic winged bowls that he brought for show and tell at our May meeting. Plan on coming out to the July meeting and learn how to make a truly unusual bowl.

For our August meeting we will be holding our annual Wood Auction and BBQ. It is important that we start gathering our good, *usable* wood and other woodturning or wood-

working items to donate to the cause. Those of you who have been to an auction before know the good time that will be had and for our newer members, bring your family and come down to enjoy this special evening. Walt Brown will be back cooking up his famous burgers and hot dogs. The events will be held at Chemwest with the barbeque beginning at 6:00 PM and the auction at

7:00 PM. The auction is normally our largest fund raiser of the year, so please make the effort and bring something to donate, as well as your cash and check books. A good time is guaranteed to all.

Thank You,  
**Fred C. Kline**

*Above: Jean François Escoulen shows Tom the finer points of cutting air.*



# THE MOON TREES

There is a young Douglas Fir on the Oregon state capitol grounds with a most unusual history. The first part of this tree's story began in 1953 when Stuart Roosa parachuted into an Oregon forest fire as a US Forest Service Smoke Jumper. The middle of our story occurred when its seed was taken from the cone off its parent tree in Benton County. The seed ended up crammed into a small three-inch by six-inch metal cylinder with hundreds of other seeds.

The last and continuing chapters of the story began when Governor Bob Straub planted our Douglas Fir which was barely two feet tall and less than an inch in diameter. But wait, I'm getting ahead of the story...

Stuart Roosa was born on August 16, 1933, in Durango, Colorado. In the early 1950's he was stationed in Oregon at the Siskiyou Smoke Jumpers' Base where he worked as a smoke jumper in the summers during college. He later joined the Air Force and became a test pilot. He was one of 19 people selected for the astronaut class of 1966 and was part of the astronaut support crew for Apollo 9. Stuart Roosa was to become the pilot of the command module for the Apollo 14 mission. Following Apollo 14, Roosa was backup command module pilot for Apollo's 16 and 17. He then worked on the Space Shuttle program until his retirement as a Colonel in the Air Force in 1976.

Remember our little fir seed plucked from its Benton County parent? It was shipped off to Cape Canaveral, Florida, where it was loaded aboard Roosa's Apollo 14. The gigantic Saturn V rocket launched in the late afternoon of January 31, 1971, on what

was to be our third trip to the lunar surface. Five days later Alan Shepard and Edgar Mitchell walked on the Moon while Stuart Roosa orbited above in



the command module. Packed in a small three-inch by six-inch cylinder in Roosa's "Personal Preferences Kit" (PPK) were hundreds of tree seeds, part of a joint NASA/USFS project. The seeds orbited the moon 34 times with Roosa.

The NASA/USFS project began after Roosa was chosen for the Apollo 14 mission. Ed Cliff, Chief of the Forest Service, knew of Stuart Roosa from his days as a smoke jumper and contacted him about bringing seeds into space. As a tribute to the Forest Service Roosa agreed to take the container of tree seeds along in his PPK.

Stan Krugman of the Forest Service was put in charge of the project and selected the seeds for the experiment. Seeds were chosen from five different types of trees: Loblolly Pine, Sycamore, Sweetgum, Redwood, and Douglas Fir. The seeds were classified and sorted, with control seeds kept on Earth for later comparison. Roosa carried about 400 - 500 seeds in his PPK as he orbited the Moon in the command module "Kitty Hawk". After they returned to Earth, they went to Houston to be decontaminated, during which time the container was accidentally exposed to a vacuum. When the cylinder was opened, the bags containing the seeds exploded, spewing seeds all over the room. The seeds got mixed together and were presumed to be no longer viable, but were picked up and sorted anyway.

Stan Krugman had the seeds sent to the southern Forest Service station in Gulfport, Mississippi and to the western station in Placerville, California to attempt germination. Surprisingly, nearly all the seeds germinated successfully and the

Forest Service had some 420 to 450 seedlings after a few years. Some of these were planted alongside their earthbound control counterparts. As would be expected, after over twenty years, there was no discernible difference between the controls and the Moon Trees, as they were quickly



dubbed. Most were given away in 1975 and 1976 to many state forestry organizations to be planted as part of the nation's bicentennial celebration. A Loblolly Pine was planted at the White House, and trees were planted in Brazil, Switzerland, and presented to the Emperor of Japan, among oth-

*Moon Trees – Continued on page 3*

**Moon Trees** – Continued from page 2

ers. Moon trees have also been planted in Washington Square in Philadelphia, at Valley Forge, in the International Forest of Friendship, and at various universities and NASA centers. As it turns out, Oregon was blessed with seven known Moon Trees; while Washington received one. Unfortunately, no records were kept as to where the trees were sent. As a result only a small fraction of these hundreds of trees' locations are known. David Williams, a NASA scientist has an ongoing project to find as many as possible.

Our story's tree, was planted at the Oregon State Capitol grounds on Arbor Day, April 30, 1976, by Governor Bob Straub. President Ford sent the following telegram for the bicentennial Moon Tree planting ceremonies:

*"I send warm greetings to those who attend this unique ceremony dedicating a small tree which was taken from earth to the moon on January 31, 1971 aboard Apollo 14. This tree which was carried by*

*Astronauts Stuart Roosa, Alan Shepard and Edgar Mitchell on their mission to the moon, is a living symbol of our spectacular human and scientific achievements. It is a fitting tribute to our national space program which has brought out the best of American patriotism, dedication and determination to succeed."*

*"Planted in this community in our bicentennial year. May this young tree renew our deep-rooted faith in the ideals of our Founding Fathers and may it inspire us to strive for the kind of growth that benefits our own citizens and all mankind."*

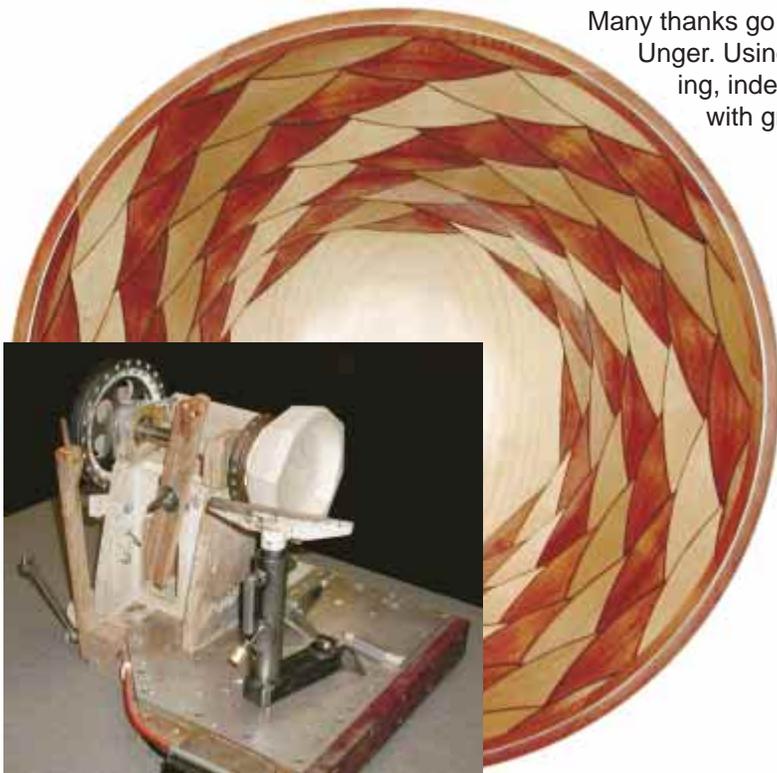
Not only is our tree's history special, it's also particularly special for Oregon because of Stuart Roosa's very strong connection with our state. After the flight of Apollo 14, Stuart chose to have his official homecoming parade in Coos Bay and he returned to Oregon often before he passed away in December 1994.

Our tree was granted Heritage Tree

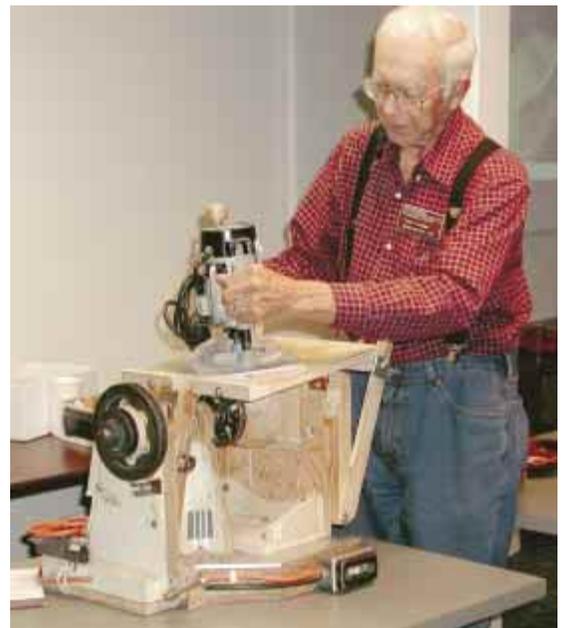
status on April 11, 2003. During the dedication ceremony, Secretary of State Bill Bradbury said,

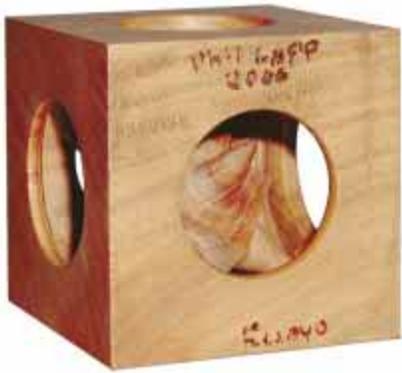
*"Oregon's Moon Tree is an enduring symbol of the U.S. Space Program, as well as a celebration of our nation's bicentennial. And it is clearly an important part of Oregon's history. And that's just what Oregon's Heritage Trees are all about - they are a slice of life, standing sentinels who remind us and teach us about our past and inspire us for our future."*

The Northwest's Moon Trees, all Douglas Firs, can be discovered at: University of Oregon, Eugene; US Veterans Hospital, Roseburg; Oregon State University, Corvallis; State Capitol Building, Salem; Siskiyou Smoke Jumpers Base, where two Moon Trees did not survive, Illinois Valley; Two Moon Trees are located at a private, Oregon residence; State Capitol Building, Olympia, Washington.



Many thanks go to our June demonstrator, NWWT member, Pete Unger. Using his completely self-designed and assembled turning, indexing, routing lathe he creates astounding turnings with great visual complexity and beauty.





*June Challenge and Show'n'Tell items: Phil Lapp's puzzler; Don Woodward's segmented goblets; and Kathleen Duncan's female figure pens.*

## Library News

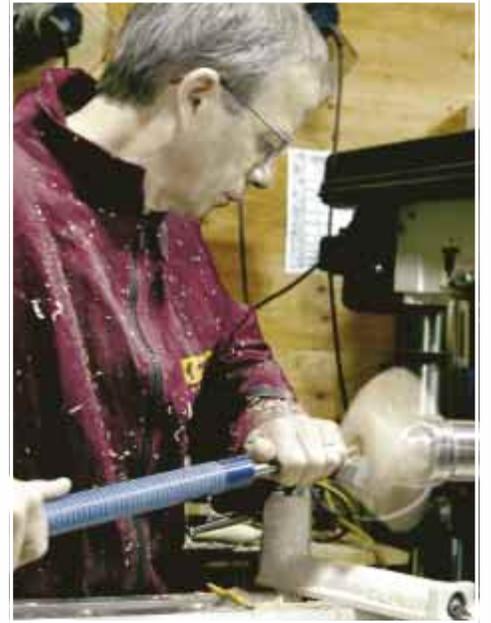
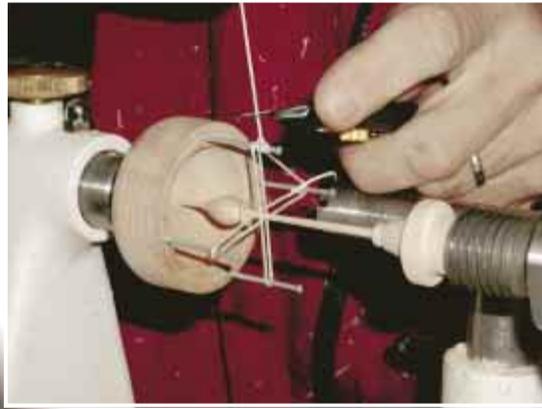
This month's addition to our library is the "Sharpening Woodturning Tools" DVD set by Mike Darlow. Yes, it was an impulse purchase at the recent seminar hosted by Mr. Darlow and a direct result of Tom Reiman's shameless sales pitches he chanted every time Mike paused to put up another diagram. This set includes a 16-page booklet and two DVDs with all new material. Disk 1 includes six chapters that cover the following; How tools cut, Blade materials, Introduction to sharpening, Abrading equipment, Grinding jigs, and Tool geometries. Disk 2 also includes six chapters and they cover; Tilting-platform jigs, Grinding freehand, Pivoting jigs, Handle-end jigs, The Heli-Grind, and Honing & buffing. The 16-page booklet contains full size drawings of the "Darlow grinding templates" that can be photocopied for the purposes of making your own templates. Mike advocates using these templates to accurately set the angle of the grinding platform. The templates even compensate for grinding wheel wear. By using these templates and honing you can minimize tool wear and produce better turnings by using consistently sharper tools.

Mr. Darlow is not the only turner who advocates honing woodturning tools. As chance would have it, a book I borrowed recently also has something to say about honing. Michael Dunbar in his book "Woodturning for Cabinet-makers" devotes a whole section to honing.

It was a bit surprising that hardly anyone raised his or her hand when the question was asked at the seminar "who hones?" When I first started using High Speed Steel (HSS) turning tools I did not own a grinder. However, I had two water stones and ground all the bevels on each of the four stone surfaces by hand. The final surface of 4000 grit produced razor sharp edges. Back then I probably spent more time sharpening than turning. It should be no surprise that when I finally did get a grinder, those water stones started gathering dust (guess they weren't rolling stones). Just because I now have a grinder does not imply that my current grinding conditions are perfect – in fact, far from it. The following portion of this column is a "honing-do" list. To use this list simply pretend to be rereading the newsletter and when no one is looking cross off an item. Now you won't get in trouble for working on a

list that is not the "honey-do" list. 1) Build a grinder table or pedestal 2) bolt grinder to table or pedestal 3) build or buy a tilting platform or jig and mount to the grinder table or pedestal 4) build the Darlow templates for specific tools 5) sharpen and hone to minimize tool wear and maximize tool sharpness. Yes, my tools have been subjected to freehand grinding and no honing – they have more facets on the bevels than my wife's engagement ring. I am ashamed to admit it but, all that is going to change just as soon as I finish the current bowl, or pen, or the thingy - after that – real soon now, I am going to get this tool sharpening thing done right. Seriously, there is a lot to be said for a two-edged tool that slices the wood fibers instead of bludgeoning them and then sanding to cover the bruises. Just think - if you had a shop and were employing several woodturners, you would want to cut back on the expense and time of sanding to increase production. That is exactly where Mr. Darlow is coming from and as an amateur that is where I should be as well.

Happy Honing,  
**Chris Dix**

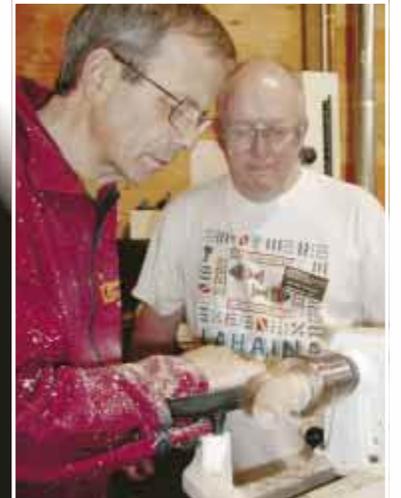


DARLOW

*Escoulen*



NWWT was treated to visits from two well-known, international turners in June. Their styles are practically as dissimilar as night and day. New Zealander, Mike Darlow comes to woodturning from a civil engineering background and looks to turning in precise and measurable ways. Jean François Escoulen, from France, apprenticed in classical woodturning under his father. By the mid-'80s he had tired of the relentless symmetry with traditional turning and began exploring eccentric and offset styles. He has manufactured his own chucks in order to displace the wood from the center-line of the lathe.





**Northwest Woodturning members exhibited many fine turnings  
for the June Challenge and Show'n'Tell.**

*This page, clockwise from above left: A segmented pedestal bowl by Jerry Coffey;  
Another of demonstrator, Pet Unger's, unique patterns; Segmented file handles by Jerry Harlow;  
Lidded urn by Don Woodward; Jim Hall's eye-catching burl piece with shell fossil.  
Opposite page: top, spalted scoop by Tom Reiman; hollowed, ringed sphere by Phil Lapp.*



## Challenge Schedule for 2006

**July** - Hollow forms

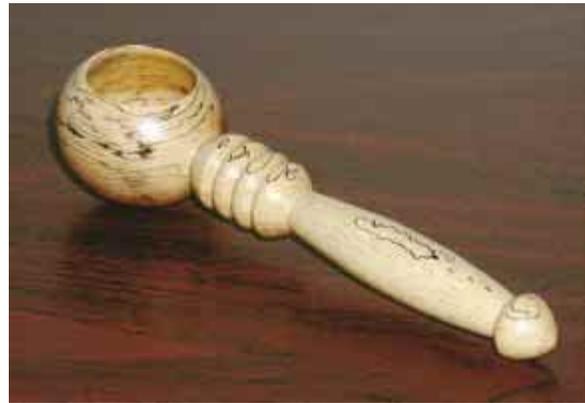
**August** - No challenge due to wood auction

**September** - Lidded boxes; slip fit or threaded

**October** - Jewelry & personal accessories: perfume containers, key fobs, etc.

**November** - Christmas ornaments

**December** - No challenge – Christmas party & gift exchange



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### Native American Flute Making with Dr. Bill Hughes

There are many paths to understanding first nation cultures. The Native American Flute is located at the intersection of culture, art, music, craft, and soul. Making your own flute will advance your personal understanding of both Native America and yourself. We will spend three days making a Native American flute with emphasis on hand tools and methods. The lathe will also be used. We will also make protective bags for the flutes and spend some time in the basics of playing. You will learn enough in this workshop to make flutes at home for yourself and those you love. There is nothing more healing than giving flutes away.

Dr. Bill Hughes is an experienced flute maker and he made the flutes played at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City. He has taught for many institutions and specializes in helping beginners make their first flutes. We will emphasize both artistic merit and musical quality in the flutes.

**Friday, August 4, 5 PM - 7 PM,**

**Saturday, August 5, 9 AM - 6 PM**

**Sunday, August 6, 9 AM - 5 PM**

Class Size: 8

Tools Required: (8) 2" plastic or metal spring clamps, safety glasses

Tuition: \$230 Plus Materials.

For questions or registration, please visit, call, or e-mail.....

Woodcraft

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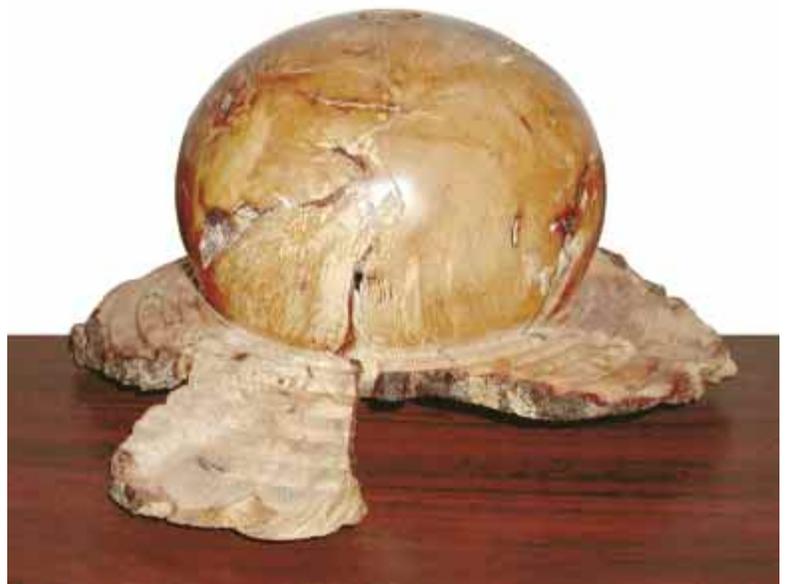
### NWWT Membership Benefits

All members are encouraged to participate in the private, web-based forum hosted by NWWT and generously provided by Lloyd Johnson. Share photos and electronic files, discuss turning and related issues, items for sale, etc. Contact the newsletter editor/website guy (Owen) for further information.

A 10% discount is offered to members by Crosscut Hardwoods, Rockler, Woodcraft Supply, and Woodcrafters. Discounts do not apply to power tool or workbench purchases – other restrictions and discounts may apply.

Member, Lee Parks, offers a 20% discount to fellow NWWT members on all sharpening services through his Lee's Cutting Edge Sharpening Service and Sales. Contact Lee at 503-537-9131.

Members may also purchase "CA" glues, sanding supplies, Anchorseal end-grain sealer and various specialty woods through Northwest's supply sales. Pricing on these supplies is very attractive.



## Classified Ads

**Guidelines for Classified Ads:** If you sell or find your item please notify the editor. Ads will only run for 3 (three) consecutive months. Please submit your ad to the editor by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Editor makes no apologies or guarantees for spelling or grammatical errors. All woodworking items, for sale or wanted, are welcome.

**Tonneau Cover** from long & wide bed Ford pickup. \$200 or best offer. **Contact Mike Studebaker, 503-648-1417, <sadie551@msn.com>** (5/06)

**JET JWL1236 Lathe**, low hours, like new. \$475.00 **Contact Ralph Roberts, 503-429-0328** (7/06)

### Woodcraft® Classes with Bob Tuck

#### Beginning Lathe Turning

Saturday, July 8, 10am - 4pm  
Skill Level: None  
Lathe Chisels & Safety Glasses

#### Intermediate Lathe Turning

Sunday, July 9, 10am - 4pm  
Skill Level: None  
Basic Lathe Tools

#### Basic Bowl Turning

Saturday, July 29, 10am - 4pm  
Skill Level: Beginner  
Turning Tools & Safety Glasses

#### Turning Kitchen Items

Sunday, July 30, 10am - 4pm  
Skill Level: Beginner  
Lathe Tools & Safety Glasses

#### Gift & Specialty Items On The Lathe

Saturday, August 12, 10am - 4pm  
Skill Level: Beginner/Intermediate  
Basic Lathe Tools

All classes cost \$105. Register through the Tigard Woodcraft store. Contact **<portland-retail@woodcraft.com>** or call at: **(503) 684-1428**

## Editor's Note:

Submissions to the newsletter are due by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Articles, tips, web links, classified ads, or other items pertaining to woodturning are welcome.

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*Below left: A "how was that done?" bowl by Pete Unger; Segmented and inlaid pens by Jim Preshong*

