

Northwest Woodturners

A Chapter of
The American Association of Woodturners

Volume 11 Issue 1

January 2007

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

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Next Meeting:
January 4th
Fred Kline - duck calls

Turning Challenge:
Pens & Pencils



Happy New Year...

Here we are at the start of a new year with lots to look forward to this year. The AAW Symposium will be coming to Portland this summer, and it will be our turn to help put on the show. There is a lot of work to be done, and thanks go out to everyone who has (and WILL) volunteer to help with all the committees. I will have the sign up sheets out at the January meeting again looking for help from you and your spouses. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Thanks again to all the past officers and board members for making 2006 a successful year. We are in the planning stages for demonstrators and capital expenditures for the upcoming year. If you have a demonstrator that you would like to see let Paul Rasmussen know and we will see if we can work them into the schedule.

The Board is also discussing the upgrade of the club lathe to a Jet 1642. This would help our demonstrators by having a lathe with a bit more power and stability. If you are interested in buying the club's 12" Oneway lathe please put in a bid to one of the club officers.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to the Lamb family with the passing of John, a long time member of Northwest Woodturners, in late December.

Safe Turning...
Tom

Above: John Lamb at the Buckman Arts Magnet Elementary School Show & Sell. Photo by Doug Brown.

In Memory of John Lamb

John was a longtime member when I joined Northwest over 5 years ago. We are both founding members of the Pacific Northwest Woodturning Guild with John heading up the Standards Committee for the Guild. Along with John and Craig Taylor, I am a member of that committee. For quite a few months the three of us would gather to hash out the procedures

we envisioned the Guild should follow when certifying its members. There was a lot of discussion and what-ifs. John was the detail oriented, get everything down on paper, quantify, analyze, matrice-ize, and summarize the results member. That was a good thing as it moved us in a direction that solidified our decisions and aided us in bringing our initial committee task to a close. Thanks to John the Standards procedure works wonderfully.

On a couple occasions the three of us met at John's home in Hillsboro. His woodworking was on various shelves and tables - he even brought out a table he had turned a while back to show me. He was proud of his work and rightfully so. During one of these committee evenings, John pulled out a family portrait. He didn't say much of anything to prepare me for what I was to see:

"This is my family," he proudly proclaimed, with his devilish smile.

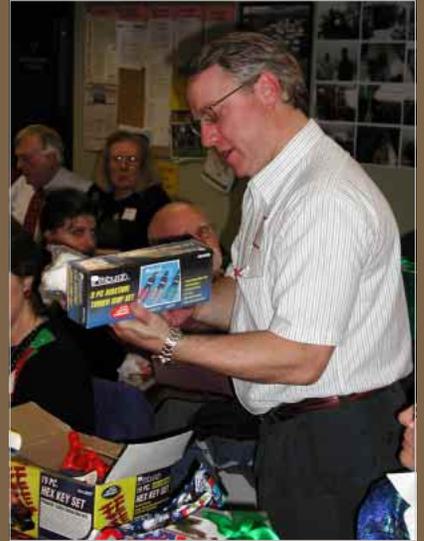
"These are your kids? All of them?!"

His smile grew wide.



See John - Continued on page 5

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Microwave Drying Scientifically

By John Williams

Have you dried a turned wood piece only to have it check on you later? Do you wonder how long to "zap" a piece? How do I know when to stop microwaving? Will the microwave harm the wood? If you have asked yourself these questions then read on and hopefully I will be able to answer them.

Let me talk a bit of theory to establish why the following microwave drying steps work. My theory is based on what I have learned about wood over the years. A reminder though that theories are just that: theories. So if you have a theory that contrasts with mine I would welcome a discussion.

When the wood is hot the fibres are soft and the lignin allows the fibres to slide relative to one another thus the wood does not check while it is hot. However it will still check if it is allowed to lose moisture while cold or at room temperature even after it has been heated. When water starts to boil it changes to steam - this is a good indicator of the temperature of the wood. (When steam is being produced.)

First the disclaimer: This process has worked for me but I can assume no responsibility for how it works for you. And as a suggestion, do not start with a \$100 burl but rather try out some "junk" wood that you do not care that much for - you may even be surprised.

Second as an alternative to the technique described below: Some microwaves have a "Sure Simmer" setting which essentially allows you to keep the item in the oven at the boiling point for a set period of time. If you have and use this setting then the bag technique below is obsolete. Simply simmer the item for as long as required to drive off all the moisture. 3/4 inch thick wood requires about 15 minutes simmer time in my micro-

wave. To keep the moisture level high place the wood in a plastic bag that has a few holes either pierced or just do not tie too tightly.

Here is the technique for "older" microwaves:

1. Weigh the wood and record the weight. (This is optional but a good thing to do initially as it will give you an idea of how much moisture is being driven off.)
2. Seal the wood inside a plastic bag. A Ziploc bag works well. This also keeps the microwave oven clean.
3. Place wood (which is inside a bag) in the microwave. Set microwave at full power and the timer for two minutes.
4. Turn on the microwave. Watch the bag. When it starts to blow up - fill with steam not "go bang". Turn off the microwave. This is a good temperature indicator. If the wood is heated too long steam will be generated inside the fibres and strange effects occur such as hidden fissures.
5. Remove the bag and wood from the microwave. Open the bag and remove the wood from the bag. The wood should be hot. Cover the wood with a paper towel and allow to stand for 5 minutes. Dry the inside of the bag.
6. Seal the wood inside the plastic bag again (If you want to place some paper towel in the bag use dry paper towel).
7. Place wood (which is inside the bag) in the microwave. Set microwave at full power and the timer for two minutes.
8. Turn on the microwave. Watch the bag. When it starts to blow up turn off the microwave. Note how long it took to heat to "steam generation". For small pieces about 50 seconds.
9. Remove the bag and wood from

the microwave. Open the bag and remove the wood from the bag. The wood should be hot. Allow the covered wood to stand for 5 minutes (Do not allow the wood to cool down too much). Dry the inside of the bag.

10. Now you have an idea of how long to heat the wood after a five minute cool-down. If you weighed the wood this is when you should reweigh it and see how much moisture you have lost. Record the new weight.

Note: When there is no longer a significant weight loss you will have dried the wood sufficiently. Over drying the wood does not harm the wood but it does waste electricity and the wood will take on moisture from the ambient air once it is allowed to rest.

11. Reheat the wood every five minutes for the time you established in step 8 until there is no significant weight loss OR until the wood "feels" dry after the five minute rest. You no longer need to place the wood in the bag except to keep the oven clean and humidity high. Some woods leave a distinct odor which may not go with your reheated Kraft Dinner. But wrapping the wood in paper will keep humidity high too.

Remember that the wood needs to be kept hot while it loses moisture and moisture removal should be kept slow by keeping the wood in a relatively moist environment. (Use the pierced bag technique described above or paper wrapping.)

Thin pieces may only have to be heated three times while thicker pieces will need several sessions in the microwave. The number of sessions depends more on the thickness of the wood than on the overall weight. Large thin pieces dry just as fast as small thin pieces. However the larger pieces will need slightly longer sessions in the oven as determined by the bag inflating with steam.

John Williams is a retired Industrial Arts teacher from Canada.

<<http://www3.sympatico.ca/3jdw8/microwavedrying.htm>>

Notable Trees of Oregon: Brookings' Bombsite Tree

A Coast Redwood was planted in 1992 at the site of the only Japanese aerial bombing of the continental United States on September 9, 1942. The tree was planted by the pilot of the submarine-delivered reconnaissance plane, Flight Officer Nobuo Fujita. Dedicated as a Heritage Tree April 7, 2001.

From Warrior to Peacemaker: The Rest of the Story



After the battle of Midway the Japanese Admiralty began to look for different ways to launch a naval attack on the continental United States. Eleven Japanese submarines were specially equipped with deck hangers to carry single-engine, catapult-launched, float planes. These small craft had a top air speed of only about 100 knots. They were stored for transport in 12 separate pieces and assembled just prior to launch. The planes, called *geta* for the floats' resemblance to a Japanese clog, were originally intended for reconnaissance, but a young warrant Officer by the name of Nobuo Fujita came up with the idea of attaching bombs to these planes and attacking surface ships with them. The Japanese Admiralty instructed Fujita to test out his innovation, but rather than using the planes to attack ships, they would be used to drop incendiary bombs on the heavily forested areas of southern Oregon. The reason for the Japanese Admiralty's decision was recorded as *"Rather than inflicting limited damage on industrial targets, since the north-western U.S. is full of forests, we will start a blaze in the deep woods. The resulting forest fire will be very difficult to stop. Whole towns will be destroyed and it will create panic among the population."*

The Japanese submarine, I-25, was outfitted for the mission. It arrived off the coast of southern Oregon in Au-

gust of 1942, and the crew spent 10 anxious days awaiting seas calm enough to launch the *geta*. Finally, on September 9, 1942, Warrant Officer Fujita and his observer, Petty Officer Shoji Okuda boarded their *geta* and set off on a heading to inland Oregon. The men dropped two incendiary bombs in a heavily forested area on Mount Emily, east of Brookings, Oregon. The bombs, however, had little effect. The same storm that had kept the submarine below surface had drenched the forests of Mount Emily, and the only bomb of the two that did explode caused only a small, easily extinguishable fire. The plane was spotted, however, and the I-25 came under attack by U.S. aircraft, forcing the submarine to seek refuge on the ocean floor near Port Orford, where Fujita launched a similar bomb attack three weeks later, again to no great effect. Fujita and Okuda did, however, become the first and only enemy mission to successfully bomb the continental U.S. during World War II. The bombing was a closely kept secret from the American public, and details weren't released until after the end of the war.

The best part of the story, began twenty years after the attack. Nobuo Fujita was invited back to Brookings in 1962 by the Brookings Jaycees, a community group that was helping organize the annual Azalea Festival. Most of the Jaycees felt that a "forgive and forget" gesture such as this would be a good thing. It was a tough fight to get approval of such a bilateral gesture of peace from both sides; some Brookings residents weren't ready to make such an invitation, and the Japanese government wanted assurance that Fujita wasn't being lured to the United States to be tried as a war criminal. Finally, however, it happened. In an incredible gesture, Nobuo Fujita offered his 400 year old

family *Samurai* sword to the City of Brookings and vowed to work to mend the wounds caused by the war.

Indeed, Fujita visited Brookings many times in the next 35 years, and gave much to atone for his part in the war. He set up a fund at the local library to furnish books to educate Brookings children about different cultures. He purchased several very beautiful Japanese windsocks that are flown at the annual Azalea Festival. He visited the site of the fire caused by his bomb, and in a ceremony involving Buddhist prayers and the ceremonial planting of a redwood tree, made his peace with the land he attempted to incinerate. He sponsored several Brookings-Harbor high school students as exchange students to Japan, and offered them an all expense paid tour of his country. In the course of turning from warrior to peacemaker, Nobuo Fujita made many friends and showed many people the true meaning of peace.

Gravely ill, at age 86, he was visited by an American friend who had flown to Japan with an official document from the Brookings City Council. The very next day, Flying Officer Nobuo Fujita passed away, but not until the former airman had learned that he had been proclaimed an "Honorary Citizen" of Brookings, Oregon, U.S.A.



From: http://everything2.net/index.pl?node_id=1146756&lastnode_id=0

John— Continued from page 1

“Twelve, and one, Tom, died a while back. This is... who works at... And this is... he lives in...”

And so it went. I was astounded, but it helped explain a lot of what I'd noticed in John. Any man who has twelve children has got to be someone who likes people.

During turning meetings, at Guild shows, or wherever we happened to be around people, I would catch John watching the interactions, and sometimes, conflicts going on around us. He would give me a wink and a small grin, but the twinkle in his eyes was ear-to-ear.

Late last spring, maybe early summer, I learned from John that the doctors had found 3 spots on his lungs that looked like cancer. Something inside me lurched; I knew he wasn't going to come out the other end. He underwent chemotherapy over the summer, lost his hair, became very thin and tired looking. By August, he told me the treatment was completed and now all there was to do was just wait'n'see. He pushed forward with arrangements to have the Guild participate in a fund-raising art show for St. Mary's Home for Boys. And, he wouldn't miss the annual elk hunting with his sons this past fall. The cancer didn't stop though and I think John knew his days were nearing an end. He died in his sleep - rather unexpectedly it seemed - a few days before Christmas.

I've thought a lot about John since getting the news and going to the Mass services for him. I am saddened that he didn't quit the cigarette smoking until he had cancer. And that his family and friends have a hole in their lives that is unfillable by anyone but John.

On the other hand, I thoroughly enjoyed his company and am grateful he included me in his circle these few short years. I will always remember John with his disheveled white hair and that smile and twinkle in his eye.

- Owen Lowe

January Demonstration

That showman of showmen, Fred Kline, will be the entertainment for the January meeting. He will be turning his *world famous* duck calls, well, maybe not exactly world famous; but the demand for him was *so great*, well, maybe not so great; but it was the best that we could do on short notice. At any rate, we're sure to hear a quack or two as well as watch some fine turning.

Challenges for 2007

January - **Pens & pencils** - last year you promised to start the taxes earlier!
February - a **box** for your sweet nookums - don't forget the sparkle rocks inside.
March - a **goblet, stein, cup**... anything to hold yer green grog!
April - Hummingbird to Ostrich... **Eggs, Eggs, Eggs!**
May - a **Vase** to hold the flowers that you're sure to get Mom.
June - the perfect wedding gift for the new bride - a **Rolling Pin**.
July - Batter Up! **Baseball bats** - any size, any wood.
August - Going, going, gone! **Wood auction**, no challenge.
September - It's National Honey Month, **honey dippers and honey treen**.
October - Something scary, a trick-or-treat. Something for **Halloween**.
November: Christmas is just around the corner, time to make some **ornaments**.
December: **Christmas party and gift exchange**, no challenge.

Accessing NWWT myfamily Forum

Lloyd Johnson has generously sponsored the private NWWT forum on myfamily.com. It's a place to share pictures, ask questions between meeting times, share internet files and news, etc.

Every current member has access to the forum. Should you not have your username and password, drop Owen an email from the internet address you use for personal emails. He'll get back to you with the information you need to log on and begin participating.

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.

It's Dues Time!

The good news is that we've held the line and kept the annual dues at \$30. You may pay by cash or check at the next meeting or send it to the following address:

Northwest Woodturners
13500 SW Pacific Hwy, #185
Tigard, OR 97223

Membership cards will be given to you at the meeting following receipt of your dues.

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 20th of the month. Editor makes no apologies or guarantees for spelling or grammatical errors. All woodworking items, for sale or wanted, are welcome.

For Sale: Delta Midi (mini) lathe with extension bed, spur drive, live center, 2 tool rests, wrench, knock-out, extra banjo, and extra belt. Well used & not pretty, but fully functional - \$125. **Contact Owen Lowe, 503-538-5325.** (12/06)

Woodcraft® Classes with Bob Tuck, Jerry Keller & Fred Kline

Turn a Duck Call

Saturday, January 20, 9am - 1pm
Skill Level: Beginner/Intermediate
Instructor: Fred Kline

Make Your Own Pen

Saturday, January 20, 2pm - 6pm
Skill Level: Beginner
Instructor: Jerry Keller

Beginning Lathe Turning

Saturday, January 27, 10am - 4pm
Skill Level: Beginner
Instructor: Bob Tuck

Basic Bowl Turning

Sunday, January 28, 10am - 4pm
Skill Level: Beginner/Intermediate
Instructor: Bob Tuck

Bottle Stoppers!

Sunday, February 4, 1pm - 5pm
Skill Level: Beginner/Intermediate
Instructor: Fred Kline

Beginning Lathe Turning

Saturday, February 10, 10am - 4pm
Skill Level: Beginner
Instructor: Bob Tuck

Off Center Turning

Sunday, February 11, 10am - 4pm
Skill Level: Intermediate/Advanced
Instructor: Bob Tuck

For more information and to register, contact the Tigard Woodcraft store. Call (503) 684-1428 or email <portland-retail@woodcraft.com>.

Vibration and Morse Tapers

If you have ever used sanding drums on your drill press you might have experienced the chuck shank falling out of the Morse taper while you were using the sanding drum. Morse tapers are wonderful locking mechanisms as long as the pressure applied is axial. As soon as any radial pressure is applied, particularly in the absence of axial pressure, there is a tendency for the mating parts to disengage.

Anyone using a lathe should not rely on any accessory to

be held in a Morse taper unless there is a restraining bar holding the main parts together. A typical case where restraining bars would be needed is when using buffing wheels on the drive head of your lathe. Without a restraining bar, the axial pressure applied to a buffing wheel may cause the shaft to release from the Morse taper. The restraining rod does not have to be very large, 1/4-20 is ample restraint.

Leonard Lee, Lee Valley Tools— 3/97

<<http://www.leevalley.com/home/Articles.aspx?c=1&action=32>>

Editor's Note:

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

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Turning Tips

To sand coves and tapers, cut a narrow strip of sandpaper and strengthen its back with a piece of transparent or plastic electrical tape. Held taut, this strip will reach down into tight coves and beads.

For long tapers or flat surfaces, use a sanding block. Or fold sandpaper in thirds and place steel wool or felt between the sandpaper layers.

