

# Northwest Woodturners

A Chapter of  
The American Association of Woodturners

Volume 11 Issue 3

March 2007

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

**President:**  
Tom Reiman  
503-982-5446

**V. President:**  
Paul Rasmussen  
503-246-3067

**Sec'y / Treasurer:**  
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503-678-1689

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Scott Blackman  
Doug Brown  
Walt Brown  
Jerry Keller  
Fred Kline

**Librarian:**  
Chris Dix

**Raffle:**  
Walt Brown

**Supplies:**  
Jerry Keller

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

Next Meeting:  
**March 1st**  
**Stuart Mortimer**

Turning Challenge:  
**Goblet, Stein or Cup**



## President's Memo

Thank you one and all for your volunteer efforts to help make Northwest Woodturners, and the upcoming Symposium, successful.

As most people already know there are 22 different committees that each have a team leader from the local area. These team leaders have met with an AAW Board Member who is responsible for that particular committee and they will be working together to implement the action plan for putting on the Symposium.

There is a lot to do. Some of the work happens before the event, some happens during and after the event.

Over the course of the next several months these team leaders will be responsible for obtaining more members to help them with the planning and implementation of their specific responsibilities. Please help them.

- **Safe Turning, Tom**

## Library News

The board, librarian, and club at large would like to express a big thank-you to Jim Prshong for his donation of "Turning Projects" DVD by Richard Raffan to our library. Thank you Jim.

- **Chris Dix, Librarian**

## Little Ditty 'bout a Turner Named Derry

There once was a turner from Nantucket.  
He made enough chips to fill a bucket.  
Some know him for his charm and wit.  
Still others think he is full of ...

Just for the record, I am in the former group and not the latter. Yes, Mr. Derry's demo last month was charming and very witty. If you missed it – it was your loss.



The first order of business was to break our club lathe that was up for sale (there go the bids). I don't know if he was trying to get back at Tom for something or just didn't feel like turning that night. Regardless, the lathe was soon fixed (how many woodturners does it take to make the spinny thingy go roundy-roundy?) and we all had many chuckles.

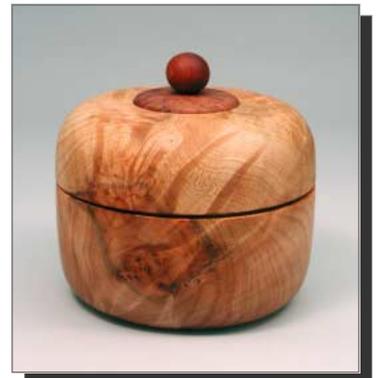
With the lathe up and running, Don proceeded to show us how he turns Christmas tree ornaments. He used several gadgets that he has come up with over the years and promised to explain the why and how – "tomorrow, at the seminar..." (nice sales pitch – but I had to go to work). One cool idea he had was to attach a wire to the core drill to indicate depth to avoid the time consuming steps of drill a little then stop-and-measure. He also revealed his resourcefulness by showing us a super thin parting tool that was made from a used band saw blade.

Throughout the demonstration he reminded us that "it's only wood" or "don't be timid – it's only firewood" and to "make mistakes – it's

*Above: February Demonstrator, Donald Derry.*

*See Derry - Continued on page 5*

# Challenge: Lidded Box



*Clockwise top right by: Doug Brown; Martin Knittel; Jim Preshong; Dan Ottenbacher; Scott Blackman; Steve Newberry; Don Woodward; and Phil Lapp.*

Above, winning entry by Charles Schneider using grape vine.

## Challenges for 2007

- 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** – National Honey Month, **honey dippers and honey treen**.
- October** – Something scary, trick-or-treat. Something **Halloween-y**.
- November**: Christmas is just around the corner, time to make **ornaments**.
- December**: **Christmas party and gift exchange**, no challenge.

## Demonstrators & Activities for 2007

The following schedule is subject to change:

- March** – Stuart Mortimer.
- April** – Jack Wayne from Seattle.
- May** – Joe Cornett, Rockler manager, finishing.
- June** – Jim Hall on fluting.
- August** – Chapter Auction & BBQ.
- October** – Trent Bosch.
- December** – Christmas party!

*Right: Madrone Box by Steve Newberry.*

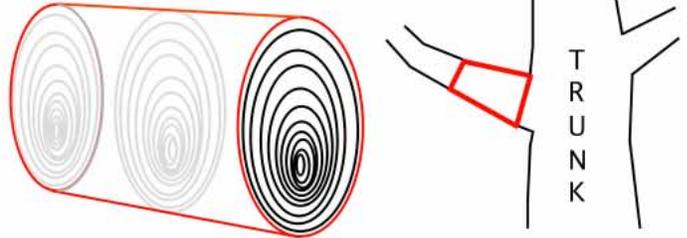


# Dealing With "Reaction" Wood

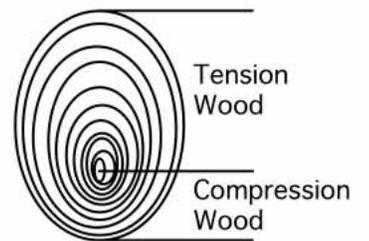
The following is based on a presentation by John Brugo of West Bay Area Woodturners when hosted by the Santa Clara Valley Woodturners. Illustrated by Charlie Belden.

If you get into turning, at some point you'll decide that buying "blanks", while convenient - the wood being dry, faces parallel etc., - the range of woods available, to say nothing of the price, will get you thinking "There's plenty of FREE wood available around here. If I got a chainsaw . . ."

After you get the chainsaw, and you're faced with your first "log", here's some things to be aware of. You've cut a nice fat cherry branch from the trunk of the tree. You cut it so its length is equal to the thickest part of the log PLUS FOUR INCHES. The extra two



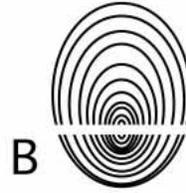
Looking at the end grain, notice that the pith isn't centered in your logette. Also notice that the grain is denser BELOW the pith than above the pith. Think of the grain as rubber bands with the pith ideally centered in concentric rubber bands. Now look at how the branch was oriented. Its weight wants to make it bend towards the ground. The grain of the wood wants to keep it from doing that. The grain above the pith is stretched, trying to pull the branch up. The grain below the pith is being squeezed by the weight of the branch. The wood ABOVE the pith is in TENSION, BELOW the pith it's in COMPRESSION.



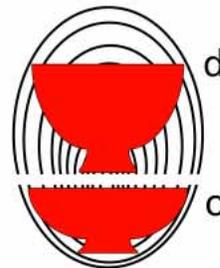
If you're going to try to get a pair of bowl blanks out of this chunk of wood you need to keep this information in mind. You also don't want the pith in your



So, as the first step in creating a bowl blank, do you cut you log like "A" or like "B"?



If you cut the log in half like "A" you could get the largest bowl out of each half if you go with "a". But you'd lose all of the heartwood. You'd keep more of the heartwood with "b".



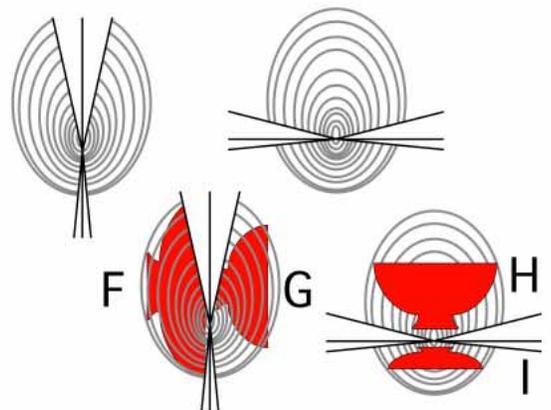
If you cut it like "B" you can get a taller bowl out of "d" - with plenty of heartwood AND a fair sized bowl out of "c" but you'd lose the heartwood

But - there always seems to be a "but" - BEFORE you decide on how you'll cut the log or decide how to orient your bowl idea, keep in mind that, as the wood dries, it will change dimensions.

Here's what the alternatives will look like when they dry. Note that the Tension wood will shrink more than the compression wood. Of the four possible choices E, F, G & H shown at right:

- E would have no heartwood in the finished bowl AND the rim would warp quite a bit.

- F, G & H would have a lot of nice heartwood and there wouldn't be much warping.

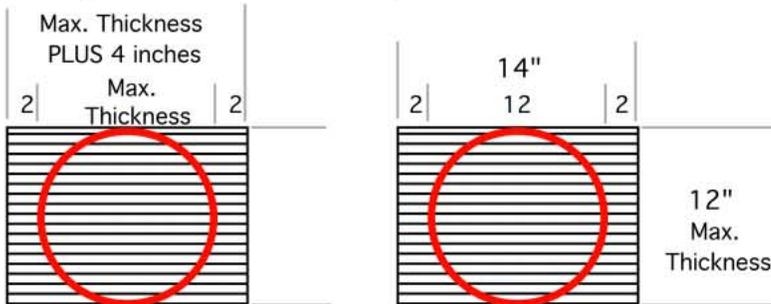


# Cutting Blanks for Turning

The following is based on a presentation by John Brugo of West Bay Area Woodturners when hosted by the Santa Clara Valley Woodturners. Illustrated by Charlie Belden.

## HOW LONG TO CUT A TURNING BLANK LOG?

The length should be the maximum diameter/ thickness PLUS four inches. This will leave 2" on either end for checks, cracks and splits which are likely to start on the ends and progress into the log as it dries.



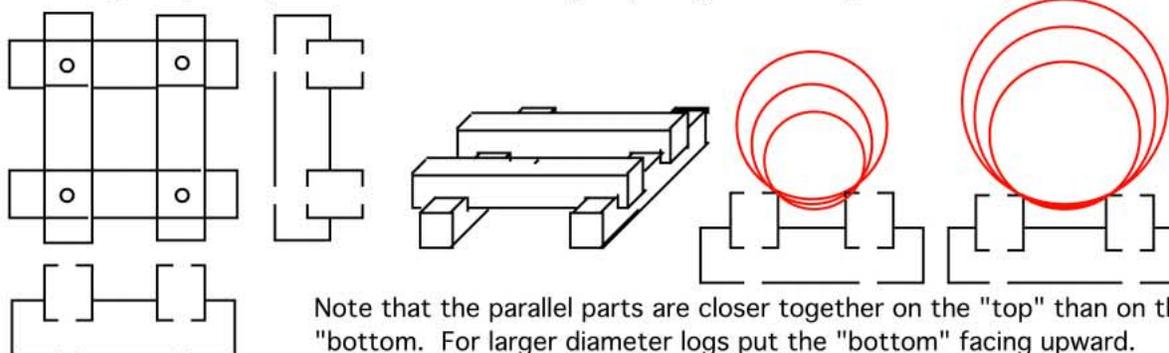
## CHAIN SAWING THE LOG INTO TWO PIECES

Next, you're going to want to cut your log lengthwise into two pieces, preferably through the pith. Here are the four basic ways to do that. We'll get to more about where to cut it and why on the next page.

<p>All ACROSS Grain Tip NEVER Cutting Fine Sawdust</p>	<p>Paralleling The Grain Bottom Half of Tip cutting Chips Not Sawdust</p>	<p>Uphill Angled INTO End Grain Tip NEVER cutting Sawdust Not Chips</p>	<p>Downhill Angled ACROSS End Grain Tip NEVER Cutting Chips Not Sawdust</p>
S L O W E S T	LESS SLOW	QUICKER	QUICKEST
Having the tip in the cut is generally not a good idea		Saw apt to buck because it's cutting uphill into end grain	Saw cutting downhill cuts mainly with the grain so less bucking

## GET YOUR LOG OFF THE GROUND!

If you've used a chainsaw you know that if the chain touches the ground while the saw is running it's been dulled enough to make it useless until it's resharpened. And if you've ever lifted a green log of the size suitable for cutting bowl blanks, you know how heavy green wood is. Here's a saw horse / saddle that eliminates problem one, sits on the ground so you can roll rather than lift the green log AND it holds the log securely so you can cut it without it rocking all over hell - a definite No-No. You can make one out of redwood 4x4s, four pieces, each about two feet long. Lap the joints then glue and and peg them.



Note that the parallel parts are closer together on the "top" than on the "bottom. For larger diameter logs put the "bottom" facing upward.

*Derry - Continued from page 1*

OK as long as we learn from them.” It’s good to go over the edge then just back off a little. Good advice - thanks, Don. He showed us how to turn with the lathe running in reverse (no the chips do not fly up from the floor and stick back onto the work piece to correct mistakes that only works with videos). With the tool cutting on the far side you don’t have to contort your body over the lathe bed in order to hollow out the ball of the ornament. Don is a guru when it comes to Zen and the art of 1/32” hollow-form walls (sounds like the title of a book).

Don acknowledged that he was inspired by the likes of Richard Raffan and Dale Stubs early in his turning career. He is always looking for a “faster, more efficient and better” way to do things which is important when you have made over 2000 Christmas tree ornaments.

When it got down to turning the icicle, Don showed us how to use a monster gouge (1-1/2 inch) to first rough down the cylinder, then take it down to a fraction of an inch diameter using the straight sides as a skew, and finally cutting the details. By not changing tools, the time to do the job is cut in half (if you don’t count the time to redo the part because it broke because you were in a hurry to finish).

Don designed, builds, and sells hollowing tools to other turners. This nifty gadget is ideal for turning ornament balls or other small hollow-form projects without twisting your arm or hand. It has a support arm that rides on the tool rest. If you did not get one and had a change of heart or have since gotten your income tax refund, I am sure he would be happy to accommodate you (509-925-3538). In closing, I would like to share one of Don’s turning philosophies. He likens turning to other activities that require a warm-up or practice run and suggest turning two to three pieces of “firewood” before starting on actual finished projects. Thanks again Mr. Derry for an entertaining and instructive evening.

**- Happy Turning, Chris Dix**



*Turnings, clockwise from top left by:  
Rich Winston; Dan Ottenbacher;  
Don Woodland; Mike Webb.*

### **Past Due Memberships to be Dropped**

***If you have yet to pay your 2007 dues be advised that your membership will be considered inactive and access to the myfamily.com forum will be restricted along with emails concerning chapter news. To ensure this does not happen, make sure your \$30 renewal is received by the close of the March meeting.***

### **Testing a Wood Dryer**

Just a note to let others know the efficiency of the Phil Lapp designed wood dryer. As many of you know, Loren Olson and I built a dryer under the design criteria set up by Phil Lapp. (How’s that sound Phil?) Well let me tell you it really works. It works so well you have to see it to believe it.

On February 17, Glenn Burki, Joe Escriva, and I took down an English Walnut tree. On Sunday I turned two small hollow vessels with a wall thickness of approximately 3/8 of an inch. On Monday morning I put the two vessels, which had a moisture content of 32%, in the dryer. By Wednesday morning I had turned two more small vessels so I put them in the dryer. Just for fun when I put the two new vessels in the dryer I checked the moisture content of the first two. The moisture content had dropped from 32% to 6%. So I took them out of the dryer, brought them home and turned them. No problem and they have held their shape.

The point of the whole thing is that they were dry in just two days. Try out the Phil Lapp design for a wood dryer and you will be amazed, unless you like all of those paper bags with wood forms sitting around that you have to change out at least every other day for several weeks or months.

**- Jim Hall**

## 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.

**For Sale: Price Reduced!** Delta Midi (mini) lathe with extension bed, spur drive, live center, 2 tool rests, wrench, knock-out, extra banjo, and extra belt. \$100.

**Contact Owen Lowe, 503-538-5325.** (12/06)

## Woodcraft® Classes with Bob Tuck, Tom Reiman, & Fred Kline

### Basic Segmented Bowl Turning

Saturday, March 03, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Skill Level: Beginner/Intermediate

Instructor: Tom Reiman

### Pen Turning

Sunday, March 04, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Skill Level: Beginner

Instructor: Woodcraft Staff

### Beginning Lathe Turning

Saturday, March 10, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Skill Level: Beginner

Instructor: Bob Tuck

### Basic Bowl Turning

Sunday, March 11, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Skill Level: Beginner/Intermediate

Instructor: Bob Tuck

### Advanced Segmented Bowl Turning

Saturday, March 17, 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Skill Level: Intermediate

Instructor: Tom Reiman

### Sharpening Your Lathe Tools

Thursday, March 29, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Skill Level: Any

Instructor: Bob Tuck

### Turn A Duck Call

Sunday, April 08, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Skill Level: Beginner/Intermediate

Instructor: Fred Kline

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



## 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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*Turnings from left: Jim Hall;  
Pete Unger; Bruce Schafer.  
Top right by Bob Tuck.*



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Northwest  
Woodturners