

# Northwest Woodturners

A Chapter of  
The American Association of Woodturners

Volume 11 Issue 10

October 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:**  
Lloyd Johnson  
503-678-1689

**Board of Directors:**  
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:  
**October 4th**  
**Woodturner Pro**  
**Software**

Turning Challenge:  
**Something Scary**  
**for Halloween**



## President's Message

Thank you Phil Lapp for your wonderfully insightful critique session of the Chapter Challenge and Show and Tell at the September meeting. I had quite a few people tell me how much they learned by your reviews of the different pieces. All in favor of asking Phil for another critique please raise your hand...

It's *nominations* month. At the October meeting we will be soliciting nominations for all officer positions for the club. Voting will happen at the November meeting. We are hoping to see some new faces step up to help keep the club fresh and vibrant.

As for me, I will remain active with the club in one form or another. But, after three years as President, I believe that it is time to bring in some fresh talent.

Safe Turning...

**Tom**

## Learn-2-Turn

Learn-2-Turn is an informal program to assist turners with developing their skills while offering an opportunity for new members to get acquainted in a small group setting. Any topic is open to consider; bring an example of something that has been particularly challenging for you.

Mark your calendar for October 6th, 9:00 AM, at our regular meeting place, Chemwest. Bring your tools, a couple chunks of wood and a cuppa Joe - I'll see if I can pick up some donuts on the way.

*Above: Wonderfully witty and creative, Baseball Bat by Don Woodward.*

## Desperate for Someone to Hold Me

I know this newsletter is probably not the best place for me to be sharing my innermost feelings, however I have been silent long enough. I have been present at every club meeting for the past two years hoping that someone would show an interest in me and possibly take me home after the meeting. Maybe I was wrong in thinking that someone in this club would have an open mind —or- possibly I just don't fit in. At the meetings it can become so

crowded that I feel like I am making contact with others but, I am not satisfied with casual platitudes like; "How are you, fine, and you? Bla, bla, bla..." I want someone, anyone, possibly even you, to take me home, cuddle up next to a fire, and hold me close. Then hold me at arms length - caress me with your eyes and allow your desires to swell. Draw me close again and tenderly touch me with your fingertips. I could stay up all night with you re-

peating that process. Hopefully, as the fire dwindles we would find our way to the bedroom. There I would be wrapped in your arms until you're too exhausted to keep your eyes open. The morning light would reveal my loyalty as I would remain at your side no matter how loudly you snored or hogged the covers. I know that when you find your way to the shop your work will be inspired by the intimate time we shared between the covers. If you are wondering who I am and how you can sneak me in the house without your spouse finding out I will tell you my name...

*Continued on page 5 - See Desperate*



# September Show'n'Tell Turnings

Credit for pieces: right column, from top: Kathleen Duncan shallow bowl, a natural-edge spalted maple bowl by Jim Hall, a clean and simple bowl by Lynne Hemmert, bowl by Tom Helzer with a heavy bark edge, and a spalted bowl by Kathleen Duncan.

Below, left to right from the top: carved, curly maple bowl by Scott Blackman, Jim Hall's fluted hollow form, Phil Lapp's rotating compartment box, a distressed cherry bowl by Jim Preshong, Bruce Schafer's blue and green dyed cedar bowl, and Don Woodward's plywood vase.



# BOILING PROTOCOL

BY STEVEN RUSSELL • • • WWW.WOODTURNINGVIDEOSPLUS.COM

In an effort to assist those who are interested in the boiling protocol, I have compiled the following list of boiling tips to help you with implementing the boiling protocol successfully in your studio. The boiling protocol has allowed me to dry a tremendous amount of bowls, platters and hollow forms with no cracking whatsoever and it is an integral part of my studio's drying protocol. Here is a recap of the boiling protocol for those who are unfamiliar with my original article on boiling wood to reduce drying degrade. (Published in my first electronic book - "Woodturning with Steven D. Russell, Volume I.")

## Getting Started with the Boiling Protocol

I prefer to use a 55-gallon drum for the boiling pot. This has been cut down to 18" high. The pot is heated with a Cajun-style propane burner, which is typically sold to fry turkeys or boil seafood outside. If you live in a rural area, you can easily heat your pot with scraps from your studio. Whatever container you decide to boil in, use a pot that you can dedicate exclusively to timber boiling. The extractives in the timber will quickly make a mess of your boiling pot and you will not want to use it for anything else.

In the past, I boiled my rough outs with a full rolling boil for the entire boil cycle. I found out that this was not necessary and just wasted propane. Now, I bring the pot up to a boil and place the bowls and platters into the "soup." You need to produce an active medium boil, not a simmer. A full rolling boil can also be used, but it does not generate any increased success.

You must monitor the pot to insure it does not boil dry. Periodically, you will have to replace some of the water lost during the boil. I replenish the water in

between boil cycles to prevent any compromise of the boiling cycle. You can also cover the pot with a lid to help retain heat, water and conserve fuel. The boiling water may slosh out and stain some surfaces, so take precautions to insure that you have suitable protection.

All pieces in the boiling pot must be submerged during the boiling process. A simple grate can be made of concrete rebar scrap that is wired together and will fit inside the boiling pot. A weight is then added to insure that the grate keeps all pieces submerged during the boiling process. If you do not use the wire grate, you can use a weight to prevent the pieces from floating. A brick or a large rock works great for this. Sometimes, the design will limit the amount of pieces you can put in the boiling pot, semi-enclosed bowls, hollow forms, such as tall roughed out vases, etc. However, I load as many pieces as I can fit in the pot. You can load quite a few platters into the pot, because they stack so well.

**CAUTION:** Do not load pieces into the boiling pot that are near the same size as the maximum diameter of the pot. When the wood takes up water during the boil, it will expand in size. If the piece is near the same size as the pot's diameter when you place it in the pot to boil, the wood will swell, creating a tight fit, or plug in the pot, causing a build-up of pressure under the plug.

This is a dangerous condition that can cause severe injuries. For safety, always allow 6" of free space around your boiled pieces in the pot as a safety margin. For example, if your pot measures 24" in diameter, the maximum size piece you should ever boil is 18". If you need to boil larger pieces, get a larger pot, observing the

6" safety margin.

## Boiling Protocol: Tips for Success

- My basic boiling protocol requires 1 hour (60 minutes) of boiling for every 1" of wall thickness. This means you must measure the wall thickness of your pieces to insure you are boiling for the correct time. Ignore any tenon/spigot thickness less than 3/4" and measure the belly, or wall of any bowls, or platters.
- If a batch of bowls/platters includes mixed thickness walls, you must set your boil cycle for the thickest piece in the pot. For example: If you pot contains 1.0", 1.25" 1.5" and 2.0" thick walled pieces, you must set your boil cycle for the 2.0" thick wall (i.e., the mixed pot would boil for 2 hours total).
- Boiling longer than the protocol requires will not compromise the boiling protocol, but it will not help either. However, boiling less than the required time will result in a success rate well below the established and documented 95% or better of boiled pieces dried with no checking.
- When placing bowls into the boiling water, you must wait until the water returns to a boil before starting your timing cycle. This is critical to obtaining a proper boil cycle. Placing cold bowls into boiling water stops the boiling process. If you start your time cycle before the water returns to a boil, you will not be getting the required 60 minutes of active boil per inch of wall thickness that is required for best results.
- If the pieces float during the boiling cycle, your success ratio will be lower. To prevent this you can fashion a metal grate to fit inside the pot, which is slightly smaller than the diameter of your boiling pot. By placing a sufficient weight on this grate, all pieces in the pot will be prevented from floating during the boiling cycle.
- Whilst rough turning a batch of bowls for the boiling pot, insure that any previously turned bowls do not sit in the open air prior to boiling. I use a plastic tarp to cover the pieces, or place them into a plastic trashcan with

*Continued on page 5 - See **Boiling Protocol***

## October Demonstration

Looking for an idea for Christmas presents? A 10" laminated pepper mill may be of interest to you. Lloyd Johnson will demonstrate how the use of technology can remove all the trial and error of the project.

Lloyd has been a woodworker for over 25 years. Six years ago, he added a lathe to his shop and found that combining the two art forms opened some very creative doors. With long-time friend Tom Denny (also a member of NWWT), he started Woodturner PRO, a software company dedicated to extending the limits of woodturning through the use of technology. The software from this hobby business is currently in use in over 60 countries.

Woodturner PRO has just released Version 2.0 of their three software titles, adding capabilities such as the Golden Ratio. Lloyd will use the software to create a 3D rendering of a pepper mill featuring a laminated stave body. Additional software will be used to make the lamination process simple and maximize the utilization of wood. He will discuss various jigs and devices that make the process fast and safe. Lloyd will also demonstrate a more difficult laminated stave kaleidoscope.

Time permitting, we'll then shift gears to open-segment turning. Lloyd will demonstrate his own technology-base technique that makes it possible to create elaborate open segment turnings with a minimum of equipment and in far less time than traditional techniques.



## Sign up Now for Trent Bosch Demo/Hands-on

World renown turner, Trent Bosch, will be visiting NWWT in November. He will present a meeting night demo, November 1st, followed by an all day seminar on Friday. Saturday, Nov. 3rd, will feature a hands-on workshop.

Cost was not available at press time, but you can be sure it will be well worth it. Lunch for both Friday and Saturday will be included. More details available during the October meeting.



## October Nominations: November Elections

It's that time again: time for new ideas, new energy, new faces. The following officer positions are subject to the nomination and voting process: President; Vice President; Treasurer; and Secretary. NWWT also sits a board of five members who act as the voice of the membership.

The librarian, rafflemaster, supplies manager and newsletter editor are volunteer positions and open to anyone who expresses the desire to head up one of these vital posts.

Scott Blackman has expressed an interest in becoming the next editor. Let's all give him a pat on the back and our support in accepting the task.



## New AAW Chapter?

A new chapter in southwest Washington may be coming together with your help and input. Dave Smith posted the following message to the AAW forum this past week:

*I have decided there is a need for a turning club in SW Washington. I have been driving 1:15 to Lacey, WA to attend the Woodturners of Olympia club meetings. The Portland, OR clubs are closer but traffic is worse. So I am looking to form a club in Longview, WA to serve NW Oregon and SW Washington. There are at least 8 turners in the area for a nucleus of talent. The only problem is finding an organized person the make it happen. Anyone who has seen my shop knows I am not the person for the job. Chaos is an understatement.*

*Please contact me if you are interested in a Longview, WA turning club.*

*Best to email me at:  
davesmith@woodnheart.com  
My phone is 360-636-0721.  
Web site www.woodnheart.com*

### Dave Smith

If you are at all interested, contact Dave. Starting a new chapter is not that difficult and surrounding chapters will likely be happy to share their by-laws as guidance as well as assist where needed.

*Turnings this page: above, a collection of Hazelnut bottle stoppers and stand by Phil Lapp; page center, ornaments Mike Meredith; lower left, Jim Hall's lidded vessel with delicate finial.*

*Desperate - Continued from page 1*

I am "Scratching The Surface" by Michael Hosaluk and I will be hanging out near the library waiting for you to come by and check me out! I am all about "Art and Content in Contemporary Wood." Numerous contemporary artists discuss their trials and tribulations along their path to the inspiration that sets their work apart from the norm. The gallery contains annotated color photographs of some really fantastic stuff. Warning: not all the items in this book focus on woodturning, however, many of the ideals and practices can be applied to woodturning. In the chapter "Board with Brown" Paul Sasso tells a story of how some very fine woodwork came to be painted and how that opened his eyes to the fact that wood does not have to be brown.

"Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read." Groucho Marx

Happy reading and turning -

**Chris Dix**

*Boiling Protocol - Continued from page 3*

a tight fitting lid. Boiling will not glue any pre-existing cracks back together.

- When you remove your bowls from the boiling water, you must protect the bowls from rapid drying of the surface fibers. My preferred method is to place the boiled pieces onto the floor in a cone or pyramid shape, alternating the rims and tenons. Cover the pile with a canvas tarp or old bath towels. The boiled bowls cannot be left in the open air, or they will develop cracks. They cannot be covered with anything that does not allow the water vapour to escape (plastic for example).

- To remove some of the excess water from the bowls, leave the bowls under the fabric tarp for two to three days. Invert the pile once each day (rims up, rims down, rims up etc.) for three days. At the conclusion of the three-day period, place the bowls into paper grocery bags and seal the open end of the bag with tape or staples. Leave the bowls in the bag until they reach

equilibrium moisture content. Paper bagging is the best environment to dry the post-boiled pieces in for most people.

- The paper bag creates a microclimate inside the bag of higher moisture content than the outside ambient atmosphere. As the water vapour moves out of the bowl, it is impeded from quick dissipation into the ambient atmosphere because it must first pass through the craft paper bag barrier wall. In addition, the bag prevents any drafts from drying the exterior of the piece too quickly, preventing steep moisture gradients from forming.

- The bowls can also be waxed and then dried in the open air, but I prefer to place them into paper bags. It takes less time and keeps the cost of using the wax emulsion (cold wax emulsions are typically paraffin, or microcrystalline based, with the wax, water and a surfactant) down. Tyvek bags can be used in lieu of the paper bags. Tyvek is a specialty film developed by Dupont that allows moisture vapour transmission in one direction only and is used extensively as a house wrap before adding brick or siding.

- With highly unstable timbers like green Madrone Burr, put the items into cool water and then bring it up to a boil SLOWLY, over the course of two hours. When the water begins boiling (2 hours from the start), boil for two to three hours. When this cycle is up, (4-5 hours from the start) turn off the burner and let the piece sit in the pot until the next day. Then, remove the items from the water and air-dry them for a couple of days before bagging. However, most timbers do not require this extra effort.

Additional Benefits of Using the Boiling Protocol

- On average, boiling will reduce checking in boiled pieces to 1.5% to 4.0% or less per hundred, depending on the species.

- Boiling will decrease drying time on average up to 50%. For example, if a non-boiled piece takes 6 months to air

dry, a boiled piece of the same timber will typically reach EMC (equilibrium moisture content) in three months, or less.

- Boiling will reduce warpage on average 5%.

- Unwanted guests in the bowls, i.e. worms, bugs and other critters are usually taken care of during the boiling cycle.

- I am frequently asked about colour loss in boiled pieces. Having boiled thousands of pieces from more than 46 different species, I can well attest to the fact that I see no difference in core colour loss in boiled pieces. There is in fact some leaching of the surface colour (about 1/16" of an inch), but below that, the colour is normal. Remember we are boiling roughouts, so the trivial loss on the surface is irrelevant, as it will be turned away when the piece is trued up for finish turning.

Boiling Protocol Contraindications

This boiling protocol is never going to be 100% perfect, with 100% of the timbers, 100% of the time. I have never found any drying protocol that is 100% perfect, 100% of the time. Sometimes, Mother Nature will win the drying game. However, when used properly, the boiling protocol can be a valuable tool in your studio, saving you time, money and valuable wood.

After the boiled bowls have reached EMC, they can be nested on shelves until needed.

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Steven D. Russell is a professional studio woodturner, writer, teacher and demonstrator. He is the author of two internationally popular electronic books on woodturning and three DVD videos. His studio Eurowood Werks, is located in The Woodlands, Texas and specialises in production bowls, platters and hollow forms with unique visual and tactile treatments. His work frequently incorporates inlaid semi-precious and precious gemstones, as well as precious metals. Steven may be contacted via email at <steverussell@houston.rr.com>.

**Woodcraft® Classes with Bob Tuck, Mike Meredith,  
Fred Kline and Tom Hasting**

**Pen Turning**

Instructor: Tom Hasting  
October 17, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Skill Level: Beginner

**Bottle Stoppers!**

Instructor: Fred Kline  
October 21, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
Skill Level: Beginner

**Beginning Lathe Turning**

Instructor: Bob Tuck  
October 27, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Skill Level: Beginner

**Turning Boxes**

Instructor: Bob Tuck  
October 28, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Skill Level: Beginner/Intermediate

**Turning Wooden Spheres**

Instructor: Michael Meredith  
November 03, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Skill Level: Beginner to Advanced

**Pen Turning**

Instructor: Woodcraft Staff  
November 04, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Skill Level: Beginner

**Turn A Duck Call**

Instructor: Fred Kline  
November 04, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
Skill Level: Beginner/Intermediate

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

Owen Lowe  
Phone: (503) 538-5325  
E-mail : <onl@verizon.com>

All other business:  
Northwest Woodturners  
13500 S.W. Pacific Hwy #185  
Tigard, OR 97223

**Rockler® Demos with Keith  
Hertzog and Paul Rasmussen**

**Sharpening for Woodturners**

Instructor: Kurt Hertzog  
October 6, 9:30-3:30 PM  
Skill Level: Some sharpening and turning experience helpful.  
Lunch will be provided

**Beginning Turning**

Instructor: Paul Rasmussen  
October 7, 1-4pm

**Beginning Bowl Turning**

Instructor: Paul Rasmussen  
October 28, 1-4pm

**For more information and to register,  
contact the Beaverton Rockler store.  
Call (503) 672-7266 or email  
<store17@rockler.com>.**

*Photos from top left: September Challenge winner, Rachael Blackman's honey dipper; bottom, Roy Ackley's mini-baseball bat made when he was in junior high school; left, Two banksia pod turnings by Mike Meredith.*



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