Golden Triangle Woodturners Club - Denton Texas

# THE WOODTURNER

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

Genter for the Visual Arts

TELEPHONE
(940) 383-1248

March 2012

Issue No. 3

http://web.me.com/gtw44/gtw

### March 5<sup>th</sup> Demonstration

Marbleize Your Turnings



# SHARON AYERS DEMONSTRATOR

Sharon Ayres was born in Waco, Texas with her parents Bill and Evelyn Oliver and raised as the middle child of five. She now resides in Dallas, Texas with her husband David, and has three children plus five grandchildren.

Sharon doesn't have formal training in "The Art" per se, but art and the appreciation of any kind of crafts as art, is in her blood. Her mom is very crafty, from a seamstress, to art on drift wood, ceramic and now designing and making knitted and crochet clothing. Sharon's interest in turning wood was gained through her father, who was a wonderful wood turner, mentor and role model.





### March Demonstration

Sharon Ayers Marbleize Your Turnings - Continued

Her education in woodturning comes from wood turning classes, symposiums, demos and many hours at the lathe. She exhibits her unique style of woodturning by gathering bits and pieces of knowledge from professional turners, and a lot of good pointers from club members and demonstrators. Sharon loves her family, has a passion for turning wood and is excited about helping others get enthusiastic about woodturning.

Sharon will be giving a hands-on demonstration to introduce us to Marbling. Marbling is a technique that involves floating water-based colors on a gelatinous size made from carrageen moss. Acrylic paint is dropped on top of the solution, manipulated into patterns, and then transferred to the wood by submerging it into the size. Should be lots of fun! Be sure and bring a small turning 2" to 3" out of light colored wood, sanded no more than 320 grit, with no finish on it. Something like bottle stoppers, spin tops, small vase, hollowed Christmas ornament, would be ideal.

Sharon belongs to the American Association of Woodturners, Hunt County Woodturners, Dallas Area Woodturners, Golden Triangle Woodturners and Woodturners of North Texas.

Be sure to bring a small turning or two to marbleize during the demonstration. You might go away with a real treasure.







## Presidents Report

NEAL BRAND



It seems that our recent meetings have been packed with information and activities. As a consequence, we have not talked much about safety. Usually thoughts of turning hazards, conjures up imagines of wood flying off the lathe or a tool breaking in a most spectacular way. These are certainly important issues, but this month I want to talk a little about the dangers of wood dust. The reason I have this in mind is that I seem to have developed sensitivity to cocobolo and at least one other rose wood.

According to the US Department of Labor, "Exposure to wood dust has long been associated with a variety of adverse health effects, including dermatitis, allergic respiratory effects, mucosal and nonallergic respiratory effects, and cancer. Contact with the irritant compounds in wood sap can cause dermatitis and other allergic reactions. The respiratory effects of wood dust exposure include asthma, hypersensitivity pneumonitis, and chronic bronchitis."

Clearly the dust and chips we make when turning can be dangerous. So what do we do about it? There are at least three things that we should all do. First, we should use an air filter to avoid breathing dust. I use a painter's mask – the ones with two canister filters. Based on my experience with cocobolo, I am thinking about paying the big bucks and getting a face mask that circulates filtered air to breath. You can find good masks for under \$50 and they are well worth it.

The second thing that I have ready to set up is an air vacuum system that pulls air from an open hood that sits near the lathe. As you sand, air and therefore much of the dust is pulled into the system and filtered to remove the dust. I bought my vacuum for under \$200 and I spent another \$100 on the connections.

The third thing is an air filtration system. These systems circulate air through a filter to reduce the amount of ambient dust in the air. I used to leave my garage door open and run a fan to direct the air out the door. This worked pretty well until I installed an air conditioner. So I purchased a filtration system (that I still need to install). These systems cost approximately \$350.

If you want a deal on a vacuum system or air filtration system, think about going to the Grizzly Tent Sale in Springfield Missouri this June!





## By Popular Demand

### Information on Fuming and Ebonizing

John Solberg

At the February meeting, John Beasley and I talked about the old fashioned way of adding color and character to your turning. Chemical fuming and ebonizing wood products have been around for a couple hundred years. When companies started making stains and dyes, fuming and ebonizing became obsolete. Stains and dyes are easier to use and have a more predictable outcome. We have had several requests to share our methods. If you have additional questions please let us know.

### Fuming with Ammonia

If you want to add a bit of old fashioned character to your turnings you might consider fuming. Fuming will change the color of most any woods depending upon the amount of tannic acid in the wood. It was used a hundred years ago to color a normally bland piece of furniture. Fuming is easy to do as all it takes is a closed container and a bit of ammonia. Any ammonia will work. Household ammonia is about 5% in strength. John Beasley and I use 10% strength purchased from Ace Hardware. The stronger ammonia tends to work a bit faster. Ammonia can be hazardous so be careful in handling it.

Place your sanded but unfinished turning in a closed (and somewhat sealed) container along with a small amount of ammonia. An ounce or two in a recycled plastic container beside your turning works well. Leave it in for 12 to 24 hours depending upon how much color change your are looking for. It is acceptable to check it once in a while but watch out for the ammonia fumes. Remove and let it air for another 12 to 24 hours to allow for the ammonia smell to dissipate. Then finish as you normally do. Give it a try. You will be amazed at the change you will see in the color of your turning. If you picked up a mahogany bowl blank at the February meeting you have a great candidate for fuming. Mahogany is high in tannic acid and fumes very well. You never know what color it will end up as each piece has a different amount of tannins.

To get rid of used ammonia add it to a pail of water and dump in your garden or compost pile. In diluted form it is good fertilizer.



# By Popular Demand

**CONTINUED** 

### **Ebonizing**

Ebonizing is a finish created with common chemicals that blackens wood that is high in tannins (tannic acid). Mesquite and mahogany are two good examples. The chemical mixture that John Beasley and I use is common household vinegar with iron added to it. The iron can be old rusty nails, iron filings, or just plain steel wool. John Beasley's first mixture was with nails and mine was with steel wool. Nails take a bit longer to work but the outcome is the same. I added about a half a pad of steel wool to 16 ounces of vinegar in a spray bottle. John B. made his in the bottle the vinegar came in by adding a bunch of old nails. My steel wool was gone in about 48 hours and I was left with a solution about the color of weak tea. **A word of caution:** after about 20 minutes bubbles started to form on the steel wool or nails. It turns out that this is hydrogen gas and is very flammable. Be sure to let your mixture breath to let the gas escape and don't expose it to open flame! You don't want the container to expand and leak your ebonizing solution all over you shop. The vinegar we have been using is off the shelf, standard grocery store white distilled vinegar. Nothing special.

After a couple of days your solution should be ready to use. There is no magic method to applying the mixture to your turning. You can dip a rag or paper towel in it and wipe it on or if it is in a spray bottle it can be sprayed directly on the wood. Wipe off any excess and let it dry. As it dries you can see your work turning darker. If the wood is high in tannic acid is will turn a very dark gray and will darken to a soft black as you add finish. If the wood is low in tannic acid it will not turn as dark (Maple as an example). If you want a dark finish on a low tannin wood, a solution of tannic acid can be applied before the ebonizing solution. (More about that next month).

If you have one of the mahogany blanks that was handed out at the February meeting give this a try. It is a lot of fun and the results vary from piece to piece depending on the amount to tannins in the wood. Experiment with it on any wood and see what colors you get. Be sure share the outcome with the rest of us.

# Up Coming Activities at GTW

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS ++ DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN

### **Future Demonstrations**

March: Sharon Ayres - Marbling your turnings - Hands on demo. Bring something to marble

April: James Thorman - Paper Turning

May: Oren Zehner - Turning blanks for empty bowls. Bowl Design

June: Dick Koch - Segmented Bowls

During the second half of the year we will also have demonstrations on Bowl Designs based on size, and we will have a demo on various finishes presented by the members of GTW. If you have a favorite finish that you use and would be willing to share that with the membership please let John Beasley know. There are about three meetings for 2012 still left to be planned. If there is something you would like to see as a demo please let one of the board members know. This is your club so we would like to hear from you.

### **Turning Cars For Arts and Jazz**

If you picked up car blanks at the January and February meetings please get them turned and returned to the club no later than the April meeting. We will be handing them out to kids at Arts and Jazz at the end of April.

Special thanks to Oren Zehner for his short car turning demonstration at the last meeting. As you can see turning a couple of cars can be fun and ease. **SO** please consider helping out with Arts and Jazz this year. We need as many of the members as possible helping and it is a very enjoyable time. This year you can also show off you skill and turn a bowl or two as well. We will be turning both cars and bowls at the festival this year.

For more information contact our Activities chairperson Tom Lohr.



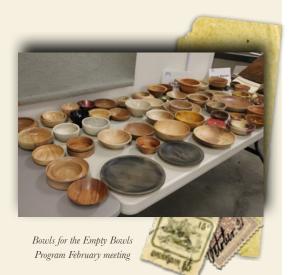
Turning Cars with Oren Zehner

### Bowl of the Month Club

Why not join the Club - Don't miss out on the fun

So far this year we have 19 turners signed up for the Bowl of the Month Club. We could use a few more. Why not consider joining. This year bowl blanks will be provided if you want to use them. To date we have 113 bowls turned with a minimum goal of 300. (DAW did 400 Bowls this year) The following is Bowl of the Month Club members and the numbers turned:

| Gary Armitage    | 7  | Dale Lloyd    | 9   |
|------------------|----|---------------|-----|
| Greg Ammon       | 5  | Jeff Short    | 3   |
| Sharon Ayrss     | 0  | Sam Slovak    | 4   |
| John Beasley     | 15 | John Solberg  | 14  |
| Neal Brand       | 1  | Peter Tkacs   | 3   |
| John Downs       | 0  | Teddy Twombly | 7   |
| Don Hawkins      | 7  | Robert Voth   | 4   |
| David Hoenig     | 2  | Oren Zehner   | 2   |
| Jim Johnson      | 7  | Others        | 17  |
| Tom Lohr         | 0  |               |     |
| John Lauderbough | 6  | Total         | 113 |



Empty Bowls and Beads of Courage will continue to be our outreach program for 2012.

We will also

### Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership

Don't forget to renew you GTW Membership. You can download a membership form from the web site.

If you haven't renewed or joined the AAW I would encourage you to do so. It is a very worthwhile organization and publishes a first class woodturning magazine. AAW has also started a bi-monthly e-mail newsletter with many great ideas. Just another reason to join.

We will also participate in Denton Arts and Jazz and Celebrate Roanoke

### Miscellaneous Club Information

### **Bring Back Winners from February**

John Beasley X4 So Jon Scott Jo Mike Zumkowski Po Jim Johnson X3 Bo Neal Brand X2

Steve Short Jon Lindgren Peter Tkacs X2 Bob Beaubouef

### GTW Calendar 2012

March 5: Monthly Club Meeting

March 8: GTW Board Meeting - Dickies

March 9: Empty Bowls - Dallas April 2: Monthly Club Meeting

April 12: GTW Board Meeting - Dickies

April 27 - 29: Denton Arts and Jazz May 7: Monthly Club Meeting

### **Wanted: Newsletter Editor**

GTW is in need of a Newsletter Editor. If you would like to help out please contact Neal Brand - President.



Member photos from the February meeting





# Pictures from the February Demo

CHAS THORNHILL - TURNING JEWELRY





# GTW Mentoring Program

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH A TURNING PROJECT? JUST ASK!

The members listed below have offered their time and expertise and are willing to be a mentor to other members. Please contact the mentor directly. For More information check the GTW web site.

| Sharon Ayres | Dallas               | 469-737-5305 | ladywithlathe@aol.com    |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| John Beasley | Denton               | 940-387-7062 | rbeasley15@verizon.net   |
| Neal Brand   | Denton               | 940-383-1248 | neal@unt.edu             |
| Glynn Cox    | Roanoke              | 817-337-0210 | Thumbs9@verizon.net      |
| Don Hawkins  | Gainesville          | 940-665-3033 | ddhawkins@sbcglobal.net  |
| John Horn    | N. Richland<br>Hills | 817-485-7397 | johnhorn@flash.net       |
| John Solberg | Denton               | 940-387-3089 | betweencenters@gmail.com |
| Peter Tkacs  | Denton               | 940-271-4728 | petertkacs@gmail.com     |

### Thank You For Volunteering your Time and Expertise!!

If you are interested in becoming a mentor please let one of the board members know.



# Golden Triangle Woodturners

#### CLUB INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

#### 2012 Club Officers

| President      | Neal Brand   | 940-383-1248 |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Vice President | John Beasley | 940-387-7062 |
| Secretary      | Mike Nelson  | 214-387-9077 |
| Treasurer      | Chris Morgan | 940-321-1151 |
| Activities     | Tom Lohr     | 940-464-7723 |
| Membership     | Mike Nelson  | 214-387-9077 |
| Librarian      | Peter Tkacs  | 214-662-2200 |
| Newsletter     | John Solberg | 940-387-3089 |
| Past President | John Solberg | 940-387-3089 |





Thanks for being a member of AAW. AAW Supported our purchase of electronic equipment last year with a grant of \$750.00

Don't forget to support the vendors who support us! Thanks Craig!