



New to Woodturning

By Jerry Decker

If you're new to woodworking and wondering where to start, before you turn on the lathe and pick up a gouge, I suggest you settle in with a couple of good books on basic woodturning techniques.

There are several good books available that describe the fundamental techniques of turning and cover the use of lathes, turning tools and tool sharpening. Two books that I have read and used over the years are "Woodturning A Foundation Course" by Keith Rowley and "The Fundamentals of Woodturning" by Mike Darlow. I'm partial to the Darlow book, since I've taken classes with Mike and found him to be an excellent instructor. Regardless of the book you choose, either will give you a good foundation on which to build your skills

Tools are next, and while I suggest you avoid the packaged "set" of tools, a few basic tools will get you started. If you plan on spindle turning, a good minimum to get you started would be:

Roughing gouge – 1"
 Spindle gouge – 1/2"
 Skew chisel – 3/4"
 Parting tools – 1/8" to 3/16"

For bowl turning add:

Bowl gouge – 1/2"
 Heavy-duty round nose scraper

Last but not least, get that lathe. But wait until you've had a chance to try several models from the big to the small. Then decide based on your budget and shop size.

Before you switch on that new lathe, a good next step to consider is a locally taught course in basic woodturning. These courses may be available at wood working stores, schools or senior centers. In the Bay Area, the Woodcraft store in Dublin offers a series of woodturning classes. These classes may also be available at Woodcraft locations in Sacramento and Santa Rosa. Another great resource for turning tips can be gained from joining the local Woodturners Association. The folks in these groups are always willing to share their knowledge and expertise. The BAWA web site (www.bayareawoodturners.org) is also a great resource for tips and information and has many links to woodturning web sites—one that I find useful is the discussion group at <http://groups.google.com/groups?hl=en&safe=off&group=rec.crafts.woodturning>.

Get started! You're on the path leading to a great woodturning addiction.

Linseed Oil

By Leo Lichtman

Latheturners' finish, friction polish are both names for the same thing, and they have been talked about at several of our meetings over the past year or two. The stuff can be bought ready made for a fairly stiff price, or it can be mixed very easily and cheaply. The usual recipe is:

1 part shellac (3lb cut)
 1 part alcohol
 1 part linseed oil

The proportions do not have to be exact. In fact, they don't seem to matter much. I just bought a 5 gallon can of linseed oil, which will last me several lifetimes.

I'm planning to bring it to the next meeting to share. If you bring a jar or bottle, I'll be glad to give you some.

Robert Rosand Biography

By Jerry Decker

Woodturner Robert Rosand has a degree in psychology and completed two years of graduate work at the University of North Carolina at Greenboro. His love of the craft led him to work in carpentry and fine cabinet making, and has developed into his winning style of designing and turning wood. (Page 3)



The Bay Area Woodturners' Association is a local chapter of the American Association of Woodturners. Our purpose is to provide a meeting place for local turners to share ideas and techniques and to educate the general public regarding the art of turning. The Association meets the second Saturday of each month at WoodCraft, Dublin. And periodically sponsors exhibitions and demonstration by local and internationally known turners.

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Presidents Challenge 2001

November: *Members competition*

December: *Exchange a present, enjoy the party*

This year's President's Challenge is organized to prepare members for our club competition. The four challenges prior to the November competition are the same as the categories in that competition. The demonstration/workshop will correspond to the subject of the next month's challenge. This schedule offers you an opportunity to see one, make one, and compete. Much thought and planning have gone into helping you become better woodturners. We hope for 100% participation.

Club Meeting Topics 2001

November 10: *Club competition & Christmas ornament demonstration with Robert Rosand*

December 8: *Christmas party and gift exchange*

Competition Note: The categories for November are goblet, mushroom, vase, natural edge bowl and an open category. All entries must be completed this year. Time is of the essence. Get started now. For additional details contact your vice-president, Robert Whitworth.

Board of Directors Meeting Notice

BAWA Board of directors Meeting for November 2001 will be held at Denica's Cafe (in the same center as WoodCraft) 8AM to 9:45AM. Board meetings are open to all members. Contact Wayne Shipman if you would like to be on the agenda.

(cont. from Page 1)

Articles on woodturning in Fine Woodworking magazine drew his attention to the lathe, and he has been turning wood ever since.

In the specific area of woodturning he is mostly self-taught, and has perfected his style in more than 20 years of devotion to his work. In the last couple of years, Robert has devoted some of his time to writing article on woodturning. His articles appear regularly in American Woodturner, the quarterly journal of the American Association of Woodturners, as well as the American Woodworker. He is also the page editor for the Turning Tips section of the American Woodturner.

Robert is a member of the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsman, American Craft Association and is a founding member of the American Association of Woodturners.

His birdhouse ornaments have consistently won awards at the Vita birdhouse competition. In 1993, an ornament turned by Robert and painted by his wife Susan was selected to be placed on one of the White House Christmas trees.

Robert lives with his wife Susan and two cats in a house that he built in the woods of Pennsylvania.

Biannual Club Competition

By Robert Whitworth

Categories for this competition will be:

1. Goblet
2. Mushroom
3. Vases - Dimension of height must be greater than or equal to 1-1/3 that of the diameter.

4. Natural edge bowl - Opening to be a minimum of 2/3 bowl diameter. Natural edge must be the natural exterior of the tree or burl. No man made products (plaster, etc.) will be accepted as a natural edge bowl.
5. Open

There will be three (3) Turner's Classifications.

NOVICE - If you have never won anything in any competition.

ADVANCED - If you have won an award in any competition.

PROFESSIONAL - If you have sold your work this is you!

Show and Tell

Brad Adams - Open walnut bowl. Jim Abreu - 2 Kaleidoscopes, 1 bottle stopper, 1 Taga Nut bowl and an unfinished Eucalyptus bowl. Dick Jessing a set of salt and pepper shakers from Cocobola and Honduras rosewood. Del Morissette a maple bowl. Fred Deadrick segmented bowl and a screw thread demo. Ron Newcomb a mushroom. Jan Blumer spalted maple bowl. Leo Lichtman with a neely laser tool and a Gary Rance "Idiot Stick."

The President's Challenge

We had four entries in the October challenge. Fred Deadrick a Magnolia-Wenge vase. Ron Newcomb a variety of six vases. Dick Jessing two vases, one using buckeye burl and a fluted vase. Dale Anderson, a vase made of rhododendron.

Wood Raffle Donations

Robert Whitworth; ebony, cocobola, osage orange, etc. LeRoy Whinnery; olive and walnut. Dave Burton; pittosporum, birch and hollywood juniper. Brad Adams; claro walnut. Wayne Cowden; walnut. Fred Deadrick; walnut. Jim Abreu; eucalyptus. Ron Newcomb; eucalyptus, ash and amber. Jim Trusler; birch, cherry and pine. Thanks everyone; for making the wood raffle a success.

Coming Attractions

November - Christmas ornament demonstration with *Robert Rosand*.

December - Christmas Party. Come and exchange a gift, enjoy the food and friends.

Ads

Ad Space is free to BAWA members. Please contact Jerry Decker, @ jjjdkr@aol.com not later than the 20th of the month to have your ad in the next issue of the newsletter.

BAWA Group Discount with
Craft Supplies USA
Contact: Linda Salter at 650-365-4093 or
lindasalter@earthlink.net