



From: Wes Jones – Newsletter Editor editor@gawoodturner.org

March Program: Franck Johannesen

This month's meeting will be on Thursday, March 20th at 6:30 PM in the Highland Woodworking upstairs activity room. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings. Our demonstrator will be Franck Johannesen from Florida. Franck will be demonstrating how to orient and turn Norfolk Island Pine

President's Message

The committee planning for the GAW Symposium in September is moving right along. The symposium brochures have been completed and mailed and they look great. We are expecting a record turnout attendance with David Ellsworth, Bonnie Klein, & Jimmy Clewes (all world renowned turners). Please register early if you plan to attend.

We look forward to having Frank Johannesen from Florida at the March meeting demonstrating turning with Norfolk Island Pine.

This is a reminder that Scholarship funds are available for GAW members to improve your skills and learn from some of the great turners. Please take advantage of this club benefit.

I would like to encourage all GAW members to join the AAW for the great benefits they provide including insurance.

This is a reminder that the AAW National Symposium will be June 20-22, 2008 in Richmond Virginia. Plan to attend this great event. Although the National Symposium conflicts with our normal June meeting date, we will have our meeting as usual for those not attending the National Symposium.

Danny McCravy
President

Stuart Mortimer Hollowing Gouges

Many of you might recall the Stuart Mortimer's hollowing gouges that he demonstrated for us. We were dismayed to learn that they were no longer available. Jim Sibley has located a source for these gouges and if you are interested in purchasing a set, please contact Jim Sibley directly at jasibley@earthlink.net.

The set of 3 hollowing gouges with handles will cost \$108 plus a few \$ for shipping.

A Day At The Lathe

The Southern Piedmont Woodturners presents the third annual "A Day at the Lathe", 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Saturday, April 5th at the Davis Theatre in the Historic Courthouse, 65 Union St., Concord, NC. Featuring nationally and internationally recognized woodturners Dave Barringer, Larry Hasiak, and John Lucas. Each turner will present a two-hour woodturning demonstration; Dave Barringer - Elevated Turnings, Larry Hasiak - Hollowing the Low Tech Way, and John Lucas - Hand Mirrors. There will be an Instant Gallery, Raffle, and Auction. \$60 at the door. Come and renew old woodturning friendships and make new ones. Hope to see you there.

Barry Russell, President
Southern Piedmont Woodturners

Southern States Symposium

April 25-27. Georgia Mountain Center, Gainesville, Georgia
Featured turners: John Mascoll, Graeme Priddle, Avelino Samuels, and Betty Scarpino
<http://www.southernstates.org/> Register by March 31st to save \$25.

Turning Day

Saturday, June 7th. This annual event brings together woodturners and woodworkers from all over the metro area. It will be held again this year at the Dogwood Institute, in Alpharetta. GAW, along with the Peach State Woodturners and the Woodworkers Guild of Georgia, sponsor this event to exchange ideas and techniques and promote the art and craft of woodturning.

Bring a friend and spend the day learning from the best and enjoy the BBQ and ice cream. Also, bring those tools that you want to get rid of as we will have a large "tool swap" and tailgate exchange. This year we will also have several truck loads of hand and power tools for ridiculously low prices. Best of all, the event is **FREE!**

Newcomers and non-members welcome.

GAW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

One of the sometimes overlooked benefits of GAW membership is our club's Scholarship Program. It was created with the idea that GAW members should be encouraged to improve their turning skills no matter what level of turners they are. The club provides scholarship awards to help members pay for all or a portion of the cost of woodturning instruction or classes. Woodturning sessions not eligible for scholarship awards are the GAW Turning Southern Style Symposium, the National GAW Symposium and other clubs' symposia.

Scholarships are available to GAW members who have been members of the club for at least one year. Only one scholarship may be awarded to a member in a 24-month period. Scholarship awards are limited to a maximum of \$500. 80% of the scholarship amount will be paid when the

scholarship is awarded. The remaining 20% is paid when the scholarship recipient submits the Scholarship Follow-up Form along with a one page report for the website.

While the GAW Scholarship Program budget is not unlimited, funds are currently available for this important program designed to raise the level of the turning skills of the members. Please let me know if you have any questions. Complete details about the Scholarship Program can be found on the GAW website along with a Scholarship Application.

Harry Saunders,
Scholarship Committee Chair

New Website

Check out the new website that Paul Proffitt has created for woodworkers in Georgia
<http://www.georgiawoodworkers.com/>

The Art of Sanding

Quite often, I observe beautifully turned pieces on display with a poor sanding job that stands out like a big red nose. In conversations I find that many consider sanding as a necessary drudgery that has to be done against their will. They haven't taken the time to learn how fast it can be done with the right approach. Most people start with too fine a grit of paper, and then sand and sand until they are tired and discouraged. One of the problems is that on most woods the scratches are white and blend in until the finish is applied and then they turn almost black.

A few do's and don'ts can go a long way in solving most problems.

A. It seems natural that a faster speed would produce faster sanding, but in reality speed creates an air cushion that inhibits sanding, the slower speeds will sand faster. Speed builds up heat which will melt the bond between the grit and the paper, destroying the sandpaper and embedding the grit into the wood, further inhibiting the sanding efficiency.

B. *Sandpaper is a cutting tool, it becomes dull with use, and unfortunately can't be resharpened.* Worn out 220 grit sandpaper doesn't equal 320 or 400 grit sandpaper. "Use the sandpaper as if someone else was paying for it!" Good sandpaper is expensive, but your labor is worth more. If you are able to do the job faster, with less effort, and end up with a better finish, you will learn to throw away that worn out sandpaper!

C. If you sand with the lathe running, put it on the slowest speed and keep moving the sandpaper back and forth. Don't wrap it around the wood and hold it there, for you will end up with those ugly rings around the wood. *Take the time to learn what the scratch marks produced by each grit of sandpaper look like!*

D. Stop often and inspect the work with a strong light at a 45 degree angle and look for light white marks. If you have a problem of scratches that won't come out, change the direction of the sanding to make sure you aren't creating them with buildup on the paper. *Buildup on the sandpaper can be easily removed with coarser sandpaper lightly pulled across it.*

E. Most bowls are turned with the wood grain at a right angle to the lathe bed which means that 70% of what you are sanding is end grain. The end grain is more subject to tear out and damaged fibers, besides being *harder to sand* so extra effort is required. It is not possible to do a thorough job of sanding with the lathe running and holding sandpaper against the wood or power sanding with the lathe running. I prefer to sand the trouble spots first and then power sand with the lathe running to blend in any ridges I might have created while concentrating on individual spots.

F. When I have sanded to the point that I am satisfied the job is done, I always apply a thin coat of lacquer sanding sealer and let it dry and further inspect the work. What is going to show up in the final finish will show up here, and it is much easier to sand the sanding sealer than anything else you could put on it. The sanding sealer will also harden up the fuzzy fibers and enable them to be sanded off with little effort. If nothing shows up with the sanding sealer, a light hand sanding with 400 grit paper will finish the process, and you are ready to put on any finish you desire. **Do not use steel wool or Scotch bright at this point for it will equally dull everything.** It will look smooth, but there will still be ripples in it. If you wiped sanding sealer on or the excess off, you could have streaks in it that will show up again when you put the finish on. Hand sanding with 400 grit will sand off the high spots while the low spots will still be shiny until it is all sanded evenly.

G. Quite often some tool marks won't show up until you have sanded down to the finer grits of sandpaper and the last thing you want to do is go back to coarser sandpaper, so you sand and sand with that fine paper until you are tired and discouraged. Then you go ahead and apply the finish thinking it won't show up. Well guess what, not only did it show up, it is worse than ever. You then leave it to the next day hoping it will look better then. The reality is that had you gone back to that coarser grit you would have finished in less time and with a lot less aggravation.

Save time! Start with a coarser grit than you think you need and sand with it longer than you think you need to, until all tooling marks and damaged wood fibers have been removed. Then the rest of the job will go quicker and be more satisfying.

Put as much pride in your sanding as you put in the rest of your project. A good sanding job will not be seen, but a poor sanding job will stand out above everything else. A good sanding job looks like it hasn't been sanded, whereas a poor job is the first thing noticed. **Think about it!**

By Jack Morse

Jack@Artistic-Turnings.com

DVD/Video Tape Library

The Georgia Association of Woodturners (GAW) has instructional videos available for rental before each GAW meeting. A full list of the videos is shown on our website. Only members may rent tapes and DVDs. Rentals are \$2.00 per month. Rentals are limited to 2 tapes or DVDs per month, and the items must be returned the following month. Late fees of \$2.00 per month will be assessed for each item not returned on time. New titles are being added every month!

Woodturning Schools

The following schools in the Southeast offer classes in woodturning, as well as other arts and crafts. Check out their websites to see the scheduled course offerings.

John C. Campbell Folk School www.folkschool.org

Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts www.arrowmont.org

Highland Woodworking www.highlandwoodworking.com

Appalachian Center for Crafts www.tntech.edu/craftcenter

Dogwood Institute School of Fine Woodworking
www.dogwoodwoodworking.com

Redmond's Classes tracy@redmondmachinery.com

Woodturning Instructors

The following GAW club members give private woodturning instruction in their own shops. Contact them for more information.

Frank Bowers

fcbowrs@aol.com

404 292-1107

Phil Colson

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Nick Cook

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This newsletter is published monthly by the Georgian Association of Woodturners, (GAW). All opinions expressed by contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, Officers, or the GAW.

Woodturning Schools and Instructors listed in this Newsletter are not recommended or endorsed by the GAW, but are made available to the GAW members and others as a convenience only.

Your GAW questions, comments and suggestions are always welcome. You may contact any officer through our website's contact webpage: www.gawoodturner.org/contact.shtml
