

# Turning Times

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CASCADE  
WOODTURNERS

September 2008

## PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY MESSAGE



### "ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT"

I must say for all of you that missed out on our picnic: it was a time to remember! If you haven't been out to Hopkins Demonstration Forest, you *do* need to make that journey and get the story from Tim the forest manager there. More on that later.

From the time that we arrived, there was never a dull moment in this beautifully forested setting from it's covered picnic shelter to Doug's blazing barbeques. Jerry was the honorary 'limo' driver delivering us from the parking lot to the epicenter of activities. The highlight for many of us was the demos presented by Dale. In the style that only Dale can do, we were treated to the details of what to look for while cutting up a crotch and log into usable/turnable blanks. There is always something new that I pick up from his discussions. For those of you that missed Dale's other demo on sphere turning, you may want to check out Wes's notes that he took, soon to be published (see page 4). Tim, the forest manager, gave a short talk on the history and goals of the managed forest and made a plea for more involvement from individuals and groups like ours. It definitely is a concern that all of us that use raw wood need to become involved with.

It was good to see not only those familiar faces from Cascade Woodturners, but also those new faces of family members. I hope all felt welcome and were well fed.

So...THANKS to: Doug, our VP, for lining up the facilities, loading up his trailer and setting up the 'heat' line for cooking up the burgers and tube steaks and all else that went on behind the scenes, Kathleen for her part in the food gathering and prep', despite having only 9 functioning fingers, Dale for his top notch demo's, Tim, the Forest manager, for welcoming us into this forest, and for all of those members and families that contributed to the spread that we all enjoyed (Dale...that blackberry pie was the best I've had in a long time!)... and to Jim for making us aware of this site.

REMEMBER...this month's meeting is all about the auction...and there will be something else in addition to wood this year. As I have mentioned before, there will be an opportunity to bid on equipment out of the locker that hasn't been used in years. There will be books and video's, a mini lathe and Nova chuck plus more that HAS TO GO!! So bring your check books and don't be shy when I open the bids. Also, please do bring some of that wood that you haven't quite gotten around to turn yet but needs a good home before it goes 'south'. This is a major fund raiser for the club and there is already some "big name" presenters lined up for next year. Come on out, donate some wood, and bid it up to help the club!

John Wirth  
Cascade Woodturners Assoc. Inc.  
President

PLEASE make sure that all content for next months newsletter reaches me by the 1st of October!

[Jonathon.c@comcast.net](mailto:Jonathon.c@comcast.net)

Thanks!

### NEXT MEETING:

**When:**

Thursday  
September 18th—  
7:00pm

**Where:**

Franklin High School

**Event:**

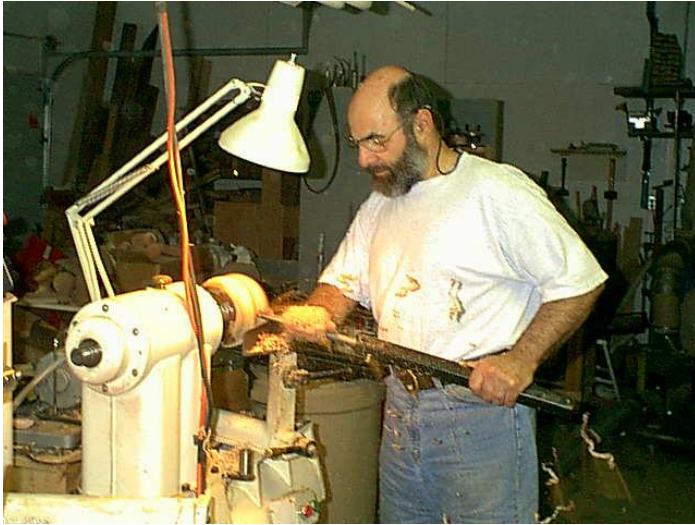
Wood Auction

**Topic:**

None

P.O. Box 69085  
Portland, OR 97239

## A CHAT WITH "HOWARD"

**Tell us a little bit about yourself:**

I'm a retired computer programmer who's married to Judy. We've lived in Oregon for 31 years after living in Santa Barbara. We left to get away from all that sunshine. Most of the time we're winners in that regard. We share our old farm house with Sam, the dog, and Angel, the cat.

**Do you have other hobbies besides woodturning and, if so, what are they?**

My only hobby is wood turning.

**Do you have a website; if so, what is the URL?**

[www.howardborer.com](http://www.howardborer.com)

**Tell us about your workshop:**

My workshop consists of two large rooms; the first was the original shop and is now the metal working room. The newer, larger room has all the wood working tools, including the Oneway 24x36. I have all the standard wood working tools, but don't do flat work any more; I just turn. The shop is full of wood and partially finished projects. I work on whatever catches my eye when I go out there. I flunked "Organization 101" long ago. Proceed with caution as you move about when you come to visit!!

**How many different turning tools do you have and what is your absolute favorite of them?**

I probably have 40 turning tools and use 10 of them for 95% of my work. Since taking Eli Avisera's class, my favorites are changing. One tool I love is my deep hollowing tool with laser guide. Without it, I couldn't make half the things I do.

**If you were stranded on a deserted island (where else do people get stranded?) with only your lathe, what other three tools would you really like to have with you?**

I'd need a grinder for sharpening, my Ryobi carver and my Foredom for texturing and finishing. Can I sneak along my angle drill to power sand?

**Who is your favorite lathe manufacturer and who is your turning-tool manufacturer?**

I love my Oneway lathe. I have no favorite tool maker, unless I can say myself, since I make my own face plates, deep hollowing bar and cutters, and hollowing tools.

**Tell us about turning:**

I've been turning for about 33 years, but I have one year's experience 33 times. I didn't really learn to turn until Cascade Woodturners was formed. Seeing other turners, especially the demonstrators at the meetings, really opened my eyes to what was possible and how to do it.

(A Chat with "Howard" continued)

**What was the hardest part of the learning curve for you?**

The biggest step was changing from scraping to cutting. Learning to ride the bevel took ours of practice, but it was so worth it.

**What is your favorite form to turn now?**

I still like hollow forms, after making dozens, but I'm getting very interested in the 'heavily textured' pieces based on Marc Ricourt's work. I still have a soft spot in my heart for baby rattles. I'm guessing I've paid for almost all the tools in the



**Do you have a favorite piece that about rattles.**

**you have turned?** See above comment

**Who is your favorite turner and I'd have to say my favorite turner is**

**why do you like him/her?**

John Jordan. He taught me to carve and texture the surface, and his two-week class at Arrowmont was a turning point for me.

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**What do you like most and what do you like least about turning?**

I like how quickly a piece can be made. We measure time in hours. Furniture makers (flat work) is measured in weeks. That's not for me! The worst part is the sanding dust.

**What have you not done in turning that you would like to do in the future?**

Nothing comes to mind. I'm willing to try new techniques as I discover them in books or see them in demos.

**What is your favorite type of wood and why do you like it?**

My favorite wood to turn is madrone burl. It cuts like butter and when the color is right, nothing is prettier to me. That it comes from Oregon is a big plus.

**Where do you get your inspiration for your pieces?**

My inspiration comes from books and demos. I only consider one thing I've done in all these years as originally my own; I made two and neither have sold, so that takes care of originality being important.

**How much time per week do you usually spend in the shop turning?**

I'm out in the shop anywhere from 1 to 4 hours a day. Less in Dec. and Jan., when it's too cold, and more when a load of green wood arrives and has to be roughed out.

(A Chat with "Howard" continued)



**Do you usually put a piece of wood on the lathe with a specific design in mind or do you just start turning and let the piece evolve?**

I usually have an idea what the finished piece will be. Certainly it's clear if it will be a bowl or hollow form. Final shape is governed by defects.

**Do you have your work in galleries? and/or have you ever sold your work elsewhere?** I sell my rattles in a few galleries. I do 2-3 shows a year, mostly at Xmas time.

**Do you collect other turners pieces; if so, how many do you have in your collection and what are some significant ones?**

I have perhaps a dozen pieces by other turners. The ones by Allan Batty, Christian Burchard and Bert Marsh are my favorites.

**How long have you been part of Cascade Woodturners and how did you find out about it? or, if you are one of the original members, tell us about the part you played in the club in its early years:**

I was one of the original members invited by Dennis Stewart many years ago. I was the second demonstrator, after Dennis, and the fourth president. I've also been a demonstrator several other times. Cascade has been a big influence in my turning and it feels good to give back.

**Do you have a funny turning related story that you could share with us?**

The only thought that comes to mind is the final line of an article I read somewhere: "Don't ever super glue yourself to something you can't lift."

*Thanks for that great interview, Howard. It was good getting to know you better!!!*

## **RECAP ON DALE'S DEMO**

By Wes Wise

**\*SPHERES - THE DALE LARSON WAY\*** (Derived from Christian Burchard)

A sphere is a three dimensional object and therefore has three axis. To turn the wood blank into a sphere it must be mounted on centers and sequentially turned on all three axis. With this premise in mind, the *Larson Method* is developed as follows:

Tools used:

- Lathe drive center (steb center)
- Lathe tail stock live center
- Two shop made cup centers
- 1/2" bowl gouge

1. Turn blank to cylinder, axis #1.
2. True right end.
3. Measure cylinder diameter.
4. Mark the length equal to the diameter.
5. True the left end at the length measurement.
6. Mark center line of the cylinder, axis #2
7. Use gouge pivoting on the tool rest (TR). With handle to the right, swing across to round over the right end of the cylinder. Repeat until rounded up to the center line. Do not cut the center line!
8. Repeat step 7 to round over the left side.
9. Remove partially formed sphere and remount into cup chucks with center line of axis #2 parallel to the lathe bed. This puts the tendons perpendicular to the axis of rotation.
10. To center axis #2 measure horizontally from the TR to the edge of the sphere, note this distance.
11. Rotate the sphere 180 degrees and measure from the TR to the edge of the sphere. Adjust the sphere in the cup chucks until the distance in steps 10 and 11 are equal.
12. Using very light cuts, turn off the tenons (shadows), and round off the sphere in this axis.
13. Feel for roundness while turning and lightly round off any flat spots.
14. Mark new center line, axis #3.
15. Remount sphere by rotating 90 degrees to put axis #3 perpendicular to the lathe bed. This is done by putting the crossed axis lines on each end into a cup chuck.
16. Measure from the TR to sphere, note distance. Rotate sphere 180 degrees and measure distance to sphere.
17. Adjust sphere in cup chucks so the distances are equal.
18. Lightly cut sphere to remove flat spots and shape sphere to final configuration.
19. Sand lightly, rotate axis and sand lightly, rotate axis and sand lightly. Take the sanding thru the grits by continuing the axis rotation.
20. Finish with product of desire.

### **FOR SALE: RADIAL ARM SAW**

Radial arm saw: Delta 9" (model 990) with oversized cutoff table and dust collector hook up. This is one of the original work horses with cast parts, not stamped aluminum. \$200

Contact John Wirth: (home) 360.546.0653 or (cell) 360.213.9191.

### **SPHERE BOOKS: GET YOURS TODAY**

The AAW Sphere books are in: \$11 each for those who signed up, I didn't order any extra so if you don't pick yours up at the meeting or have me reserve one it will be sold to those on the 'waiting list'.

John Wirth

## **ACCIDENTS HAPPEN...** TO EVEN THE BEST

Here's the scene: a warm summer evening -- 7:45 pm August 4, 2008, to be exact, a walnut bowl blank, a tool rest, and a bowl gouge. I'm still not sure how it happened. I found out all too quickly and painfully that accidents have no respect for experience, age, race, or gender. In a blink, I had a catch. Not your typical catch. I was working on the outside of the bowl, holding the gouge with my left hand. Some how the catch caused my right ring finger to end up crushed between the gouge and tool rest. It was nasty. It was obvious that this was going to require a lot more than a trip to the neighbor's for help with a Band-Aid.

It took three stitches to secure my wound. Some swelling three days later, another trip to the doctor and X-rays showed that the tip was fractured. There was a third trip, this time to the fracture clinic for a splint. With a fracture my recovery time went from 10 days to a possible 4-6 weeks – not exactly what I wanted to hear.

The only consolation was that it could have been a lot worse – I talked with someone who did the same thing with an Ellsworth hollowing tool. The difference was that he ended up in surgery to repair a finger that was broken in seven places. His recovery time was a lot more than 6 weeks.

The day after the accident, I tried to figure out what happened. I looked at the height and position of the tool rest and checked the gouge for sharpness. I don't know what I did or didn't do. Maybe I was pushing the tool, maybe my hand was in the wrong place. I don't know – it happened. I do know that I will be very, very cautious when I can use the lathe again.

There is an addendum to this: This whole episode and another non-woodturning related trip to urgent care a month earlier have caused me to re-assess my medical plan. My provider requires me to go to Portland for urgent care treatment, unless it is a 911-type emergency (i.e. bleeding profusely). Travel time from my house in Vancouver is a minimum of 25 minutes. This probably isn't the best plan for someone who enjoys potentially dangerous activities. Fortunately, I do have an option. In November, I will be able to switch coverage to a provider that will allow me to use facilities closer to home.

I hope my accident serves as a reminder: PLEASE BE CAREFUL! This might be a good time to not only check your emergency kit, but to look at your medical plan. Do you know where to go in the event of an after-hours or weekend accident? Can you use the local emergency room... Or do you need to go to a specific urgent care facility? What identification, information or documents do you need to take with you?

Kathleen

## **OPEN SHOP**

There will be an open shop this month at Dale's Shop in Gresham on Saturday the 27th. If you have a project that you need help on or some wood that you need cut up, bring it on over on Saturday to get Dale's help. If you have never been to one of these, you need to go... it is a fun way to spend a morning. The Shop opens at 9:30am. If you have questions you can contact Dale at: [woodbowl@verizon.net](mailto:woodbowl@verizon.net)

## SEGMENTED SOCIETY

For those of you who don't know, but are interested in segmented turning, there is a Segmented Symposium in the works... full of nothing but segmented turning! It will be first "segmented" only symposium. The dates are November 14th-16th at the Marc Adams School in Indiana. All the details are posted on the event website at: [www.segmentedwoodturners.org](http://www.segmentedwoodturners.org).

## MEETING SCHEDULE '08

<b>Demonstrator</b>	<b>Challenge</b>
September 18th: Wood auction	-none-
October 13th*: Michael Mocho - On the lathe texturing	Jewelry
November 6th*: Johannes Michelsen - Turned hat	Ornaments
December: Done for the year - Merry Christmas	-none-
*Denotes a change of the usual meeting date.	

### QUICK LINKS:

**\*NEW LINK\*** The Burl House: [www.theburlhouse.com](http://www.theburlhouse.com)

AAW (Main page): [www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org)

AAW Forum: [www.woodturner.org/vbforum/index.php?](http://www.woodturner.org/vbforum/index.php?)

Saw Mill Creek Forum: [www.sawmillcreek.org](http://www.sawmillcreek.org)

Woodturning Online: [www.woodturningonline.com/](http://www.woodturningonline.com/)

Turning Projects/Tips: [www.newwoodworker.com/turning/](http://www.newwoodworker.com/turning/)

Pacific NW Woodturning Guild: [www.woodturningguild.com](http://www.woodturningguild.com)

The Turner's Shop: [www.theturnersshop.com/](http://www.theturnersshop.com/)

Wood Net Forums: [woodnet.net/forums/](http://woodnet.net/forums/)

Flying Curls: [www.flyingcurls.com](http://www.flyingcurls.com)

Arizona Silhouette: [www.arizonasilhouette.com](http://www.arizonasilhouette.com)

Hut Products: [www.hutproducts.com](http://www.hutproducts.com)

Berea Hardwoods: [www.bereahardwoods.com](http://www.bereahardwoods.com)

Pen Making Supplies: [www.penmakingsupplies.com](http://www.penmakingsupplies.com)

The Pen Shop: [www.thepenshop.net](http://www.thepenshop.net)

Pen Turner's Forum: [www.penturners.org](http://www.penturners.org)

Pen Maker's Guild: [www.penmakersguild.com](http://www.penmakersguild.com)

Russ Fairfield: [www.woodturnerruss.com](http://www.woodturnerruss.com)

Freedom Pens: [www.freedompens.org](http://www.freedompens.org)

## CWT MENTORS

These members are available for you to contact if you need help in different areas of woodturning (inside the parentheses it tells each of the areas in which each mentor specializes). If you need help, contact one of the following mentors. If you would like to be a mentor yourself and be contacted with woodturning related questions e-mail me at [jonathon.c@comcast.net](mailto:jonathon.c@comcast.net) and I will add you to the list!

**Randy Rhine:**

[rrrhine@comcast.net](mailto:rrrhine@comcast.net) (Ornamental and Segmented turning)

**Phil Lapp:**

503-925-0152 (Handled Vessels)

**Glenn Burki:**

[gburki@comcast.net](mailto:gburki@comcast.net)

**Doug Brown:**

[dougivan@aol.com](mailto:dougivan@aol.com) (Bowls, Boxes, Hollow forms, Texture)

**Andy Johnson-Laird:**

[andy@jli.com](mailto:andy@jli.com) (Help for new turners with tools, Finishes and other choices)

**Kathleen Duncan:**

[woodspinner@gmail.com](mailto:woodspinner@gmail.com) (Christmas Ornaments)

**Howard Borer:**

[howbor@yahoo.com](mailto:howbor@yahoo.com) (Beginning bowl, Spindle, Hollow turning and Lathe accessory fabrication and consultation)

**Jonathon Spafford:**

[jonathon.c@comcast.net](mailto:jonathon.c@comcast.net) (Pens)

**Dale Larson:**

[woodbowl@verizon.net](mailto:woodbowl@verizon.net) (Bowl turning, Greenwood turning, and Reading the log)

**John Wirth:**

[chet@spiritone.com](mailto:chet@spiritone.com) (Hollow forms, Carving, and Embellishment)