



INLAND NORTHWEST WOODTURNERS NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting is Thursday,
February 5, 2009 at the
WoodCraft Store classroom,
N.E. corner of Sprague and
Sullivan (north side of the Fred
Meyer parking lot.

January Meeting 2009

January Meeting:

Thanks to Russ Fairfield for sharing his time and talent and taking us through the steps of making plates and platters. For a wealth of information about turning, sanding and finishing, see www.woodturner-russ.com



Here, a coat of ebony Briwax highlights the grain in this dish, Russ warns it will also highlight the scratches.

2 gallons - Unscented
Mineral Spirits
1 gallon - Baled
Lined Oil
1 quart - Varnish

1 qt - Turpentine
1 qt - Tung Oil
1 quart - Varnish

On the left, mix this Fairfield formula in a 5 gallon bucket and wipe it, dip it or submerge your piece in it. On the right, often called "Russ' finish", TTV, or universal wood-coat, it's likely the most popular finish used by our members. (Don't forget to add a little Japan Dryer to the mix)

Presidents Page

Our First Finished Turning Project

As wood turners, we have a unique way of expressing our creative nature. The turning process is like no other form of wood working. Our wood is SPINNING! All other wood workers do what they do by using hand and power tools on a stationary piece of wood or they guide the wood across a power driven blade. Not us, we stick a sharp piece of metal into a spinning chunk of wood. Remember the first time you did it all by yourself? I sure do. How many times did you check yourself before flipping the lathe switch “ON” that first time? Man, that thing is really spinning fast! What did I get myself into? Do I really want to do this? Do you remember the feel of concern, fear and apprehension? And then—we took our lathe tool and looking at that spinning chunk of wood, gingerly placed the gouge on the banjo, then, with white knuckles, slowly moved the gouge forward until we felt ‘the contact’ and then shavings. Now that we made our first shavings, fear and apprehension seemed to vanish and we started to concentrate on how to shape that spinning wood. We worked our way through the trial and error process of using our lathe tools. Once we “kinda” figured it out, we started shaping the wood. The wood soon got surprisingly smaller than we first had planned. We finally had a shape we were satisfied with. It wasn’t a masterpiece, but it was our first turning and we were so proud of it. Now, we had to sand it. Sanding a spinning piece of wood??? Uh, I’m supposed to hold a thin piece of sandpaper against a spinning chunk of wood? I don’t think so! Well, if I do this, then how do I sand ‘with the grain’? Wow, there was much more to it than we expected. OK, here goes. After sanding it to what we believe to be ‘smooth as a babies butt’ we were faced with – what am I going to finish it with? Is it ‘food-safe? (Decision, decisions) We finally made our choice and put the finish on. Man, WHERE DID ALL THOSE SCRATCHES COME FROM? After all is said and done we finished our first project.

As we develop our skills and our projects get better and more complicated, we tend to get drawn into the complexity of wood turning. As we finish our projects, each will be special in its own way. However, none will give us the magnitude of different emotions and joys that our first project did. The finishing of a project should feel the same. Pride! Accomplishment! Relief that it’s still in one piece! *WOW, I made this myself.* If we are lucky enough to have our first finished project, we should keep it in a place where it can be seen. Every time we look at it, it will make us laugh. It will remind us where we were. It will help us recognize where we are and it will let us realize we have the ability to get even better. The proof is in the memories of our FIRST FINISHED TURNING PROJECT.

Michael Perry

Next Meeting:

We've gained a number of new members in the last couple years, many fairly new to turning. We've also heard suggestions that it would be good to have more hands-on practice and experience. Our open turning session next meeting will be a **Turn & Learn** symposium at which members are encouraged to step up to the lathe and practice what is demonstrated. If you want to learn to better sharpen your tools, we'll have a sharpening station with an experienced member at the wheel. Bring your chisels and gouges and try it out. Bring a piece of wood, bowl or spindle and get both advice and practice on how to achieve your intended result. Members wanting to be on the mentor-side of the meeting, please indicate your interest to club President, Mike Perry. Members wanting to make some chips or practice sharpening, don't be shy, give it a try. Bring a piece of wood, your safety glasses and your questions. (If you haven't seen this notice yet, you're not reading your email.)

2009 Annual Dues:

Don't forget to see Treasurer, John Altberg to pay your 2009 dues. You can mail him a check for \$24 payable to INW to his home at 928 West 17th Avenue, Spokane WA 99203 and avoid the crowd of check writing members at the meeting.

Pen Turning:

There's a new club in town, see their website www.inwpta.org. We share a number of members with The Inland Northwest Pen Turners Association, see their club president, John Ferrell with questions or to express your interest. (If you don't know John, you're not shopping at WoodCraft often enough)

Sharing Table:



Charlie looks for daylight in the bottom of this platter by Doug Eaton. "...If it holds water it's a bowl, if it doesn't, it's art..."



Natural edge Black Acacia by Doug Eaton



Roy Behm's segmented vessel

More Sharing...

Sharing your work with others is the best way to promote our art form. Whether it's at an art gallery, a craft fair, a church bazaar, or on our own sharing table, the beauty of a turned object never fails to bring admiration and often amazement. And don't forget to take a picture and send your digital image to Webmaster, Bob Schmidt for addition to the Members Gallery on our website. Be proud of your work, sign it – share it! We love wood, pass it around.

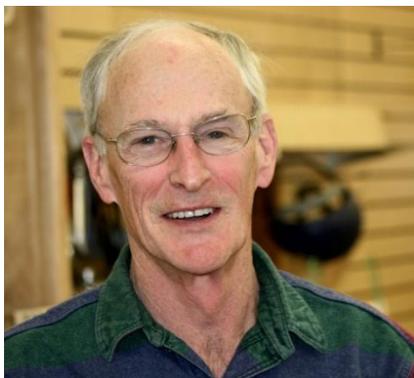


Roy Behm donated this Maple, Rosewood, Bloodwood & Wenge hollow form to an art auction to raise money for a charitable foundation. (More about that in the April letter.)

Welcome new members:



Doug Schroeder (examining a plate from the demo)



Bill Papesh (also an AAW member)



Jason Evans (we need more young members)

Keep Turning!
Chad Gladhart, Club Secretary