

# Catoctin Area Turners

<http://catoctinareeturners.org/>



Next meeting: Thursday, November 11, 2010, 6:30 pm  
Location: Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve,  
Leesburg, VA

*Volume 2 Issue 11 - November 2010*



## See you in Two Years!

Well the 2010 Virginia Symposium has been completed. The theme of "It's Your Turn 2" certainly appeared to be well received by many. The professional demonstrations given by both Alan Lacer and Tom Boley were great. I think Alan's demonstration of turning a 1/4" top with his large skew chisel had folks shaking their heads in disbelief.

Pictured below was indicative of the attendance at each featured demonstration given by Alan and Tom.



### Contents

<b>Page 2</b>
Call of the Lathe
<b>Page 3</b>
Upcoming Demos
CAT Officers
<b>Page 4</b>
Editor's Bench
<b>Page 5</b>
Meeting
<b>Page 6</b>
Arborist
<b>Page 7</b>
Show & Tell
<b>Page 8</b>
WOW - Equip List
<b>Page 9</b>
Christmas Ornaments
<b>Page 14</b>
Mentoring Program
<b>Page 15</b>
Member Discount
<b>Page 16</b>
Upcoming Symposium

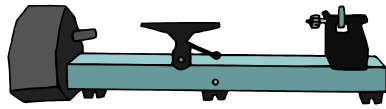


So for those of you who weren't able to attend it is anticipated that the next VA Symposium will be in 2012.

Here, Terry Lund is examining some of the items on display in the gallery area.



# The Call of the Lathe



by Tom Boley

**M**any thanks to Vice President Dale Bright and the rest of you for carrying on in my absence last month. We are certainly blessed with a great slate of officers this year upon which we can all rely to manage our woodturning club program in a manner in which we can all feel comfortable and learn more about woodturning. Oh, speaking of that, you know this month, November, is our official Annual Meeting as required by Virginia corporate law. We'll have our election of officers for next year as well as a financial report from our Treasurer. Since we are having a guest turner this month, we will want to keep our business meeting as short as we can to give him plenty of time, but the election is vital. These will be the ones who will carry us on into the next year, maybe two, so picking the right ones is pretty important, but giving them your support once elected is even more important.

If any of you are still thinking about running for an office, please contact George Carri-gan at [george@acumeninc.com](mailto:george@acumeninc.com) right away so he can put you on the ballot. He, along with Dave Brown and Roy Aber, are our Nominating Committee to develop a slate of officers for next year. I very much appreciate their efforts on behalf of CAT.

Having missed last month's demo by Mike Fraser on segmented turning, I can only repeat what I heard about it. Feedback to me on his demo was all very positive and it sounds as though I missed an excellent presentation. Thanks, Mike, for taking the time to come provide us some insight into the mysterious world of segmented turning.

The big news, of course, is the outstanding symposium in Fishersville put on by Virginia Woodturning, Inc, the organization made up of the nine Virginia woodturning clubs specifically to present a biannual symposium. It was a great show. There were about 230-some attendees and a whole load of top notch vendors there with woodturning tools, wood, and other related gear. I think that I made the trip worthwhile for the wood vendors all by myself! One of the vendors also donated a couple pieces to our club for our raffle this month, a piece of holly and a piece of dogwood. The format was very hands-on so everyone there had an opportunity to really get into new stuff and try it out on the spot. I think that those who went from CAT thoroughly enjoyed the weekend.

As the end of the year approaches, keep in mind that CAT is a 501(3) non-profit charity under the rules of the IRS and, as such, may receive tax-deductible donations of both property and money. As we continue our efforts to provide excellent demonstrations commensurate with our means, any extra income will be helpful to ensure that we have the right mix of hardware, library materials, and demonstrators.

So, now that I have refilled the basement with wood from the symposium, The Call of the Lathe is loud in my ear. I want to try making a box like Alan Lacer demonstrated as well as some hollow forms which others were demonstrating. I just need to find the time.....

*Tom Boley, CAT President*

# Upcoming Demonstrations

**November:** Tentatively scheduled is Jorge Salinas of Capital Area Woodturners. Details are still being considered. <http://www.jorgesalinaswood.com/>

**December:** Tentatively scheduled are Dale Bright and Don Maloney if there is enough interest in seeing and understanding their coring systems.

**January:** TBD

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Debbie Woods - Silent Auction  
Mark Duffell - Raffle Tickets  
Chet Olson - Web site/Gallery Photos  
Brian Sullivan - Bulk Purchases  
Jeremy Baker - Arborist Extraordinaire  
Tom Boley - Newsletter Proofreader / rep to VWI

# The Editor's Bench

by Ron Cote

The Virginia symposium is now in our rear view mirror and it won't be long before the beautiful colors of the fall season completely fade away. But fear not, the bright lights of the holiday season are just about upon us. My wife and our three daughters normally begin the month of November by deciding where our family will gather for Thanksgiving. I'm glad to see that we will all be staying in the area for this special day this year. It looks like that we will have two turkeys this year, one to eat and another to watch. Yes, those pesky Dallas Cowboys are sure playing like turkeys this year.



Once Thanksgiving is over I, like many of you, will be thinking, or is it panicking, to complete our intended Christmas turning project that we probably started last year but never completed. Oh, I'm sure that we can come up with something better this year than a roughout bowl. So let's get those lathes going, and hopefully we should all see some great items in the following months "Show and Tell" portion at our club meetings.

I would like to take this moment to personally thank our secretary, Bob Parson, and our Treasurer, Mark Kaplan. You see, at the symposium, my car locking system got all hosed up. My grandson, of course unintentionally, pressed a few extra buttons that mess things up a bit and hadn't told me about it. Relays had apparently been activating for some time, which ran the battery down. At first with the relays still cycling, we weren't sure what the problem was, or how to immediately fix it. Well, Mark just happened to have a voltage meter with him and we figured out that the battery was so low that the engine wouldn't even try to turn. So we disconnected the battery and Bob pulled his big Prius up to my Camry. Luckily, I did have a pair of jumper cables and the car started. I took it for a good drive to recharge the battery and my Saturday afternoon continued.



Guys, again thank you!

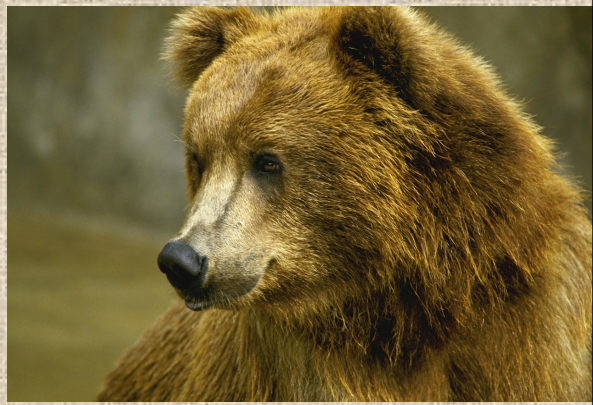
**Ron Cote, Newsletter Editor**

# Monthly Meeting

Next meeting: **Thursday**, November 11, 2010, 6:30 pm

**Location: Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve,  
Leesburg, VA**

**This month demonstrator/speaker: Jorge Salinas**



# Advice from The Arborist

Jeremy Baker

We all love figure in wood, particularly burls. There is a lot of conversation on the web regarding how burls form. Here's an interesting article that I found on eHow.com that grabs a few of the most likely causes. I will state that the actual causes for burl are yet undetermined. I welcome ideas for future articles or questions regarding this one.

[jeremywbaker@gmail.com](mailto:jeremywbaker@gmail.com)



Prized for veneer, inlays and unusual turnery, burlwood's unusual grain and great beauty places it in great demand. Some causes of this strange growth pattern are easily understood, but the possibility of commercial production is still elusive. The acquisition of solid high quality burls remains as much a product of luck as finding a gold nugget. Hard work and skilled observation yield the best results.

## Cancers

Some of the best burls are solid wood growths that do not appear to focus on an obvious injury to the tree. The similarity to cancerous growths in animals is obvious, but the connection is only speculative. Growth rings of burls do not show random uncontrolled patterns. The structure of burls is orderly but contorted, and the contortions give the burl beauty and value. Burls do not appear to harm the tree. Approximately five per cent of sugar maples in a northern stand will show birds eye figure, very similar to burl patterns, but no precise cause has been observed. Environmental stresses or hormonal imbalances are suspect.

## Injuries

Scar tissue often gives the appearance of burl wood, but is rarely of commercial value. If a limb dies and rots away, the tree's living tissue covers the wound and creates a bulge that does contain a burl figure grain. The shape of the burl is hollowed, and drying the severed burl without damage from checking is unusual. Occasionally a burl of this type will be usable for bowl stock or small inlays.

## Parasites

Some of the most unusual burls form around parasitic invasions by other plants, specifically mistletoe. Rather than enclosing dead tissue, the living tree strives to overgrow the living parasite. The burl that results is not strong nor continuous, but it may contain enough solid material to be artistically useful. These burls occur on major limbs of trees, not on trunks, and are of no commercial value.

## Insects

Older trees become subject to many diseases including heart rot. Fungal infections weaken the heartwood but do not kill the tree immediately. Such trees become hosts to many other living creatures including birds, animals and insects. One of the more common invaders in North America is the carpenter ant. This insect does not feed on rotting wood but does remove it in order to build a nesting network of tunnels and chambers. Trees react to the infestation by growing around damaged limbs. These burls are small, but can be of interest to artists and woodworkers.

I hope you enjoy this. Remember to always use the appropriate safety equipment while working. Keep your eyes, ears, and hands safe. Safety equipment is replaceable – you are not!

*Jeremy W. Baker, Arborist*

# Show and Tell

Jeter Benbow



The above holly and cherry bowls were done by Burgan Pugh.



The ring was done by Jeremy Baker.



These bowls were created by Ray Wills

osage orange/crystal coat and ambrosia maple/ tung oil



# World of Woodturners

Terry Lund

<http://www.thewows.com/>

This members only web site is an incredibly valuable resource for turners of all experience levels. I'm not sure how many members of CAT are also members of WOW, but in addition to myself, I know that Tom Boley and Ron Cote are members and any member can send an invitation to others to join.

The site has been in operation since 2001 and currently has over 30,000 photos and associated commentary. The photos represent a wide range of turning styles that are sure to have something to appeal to everyone.

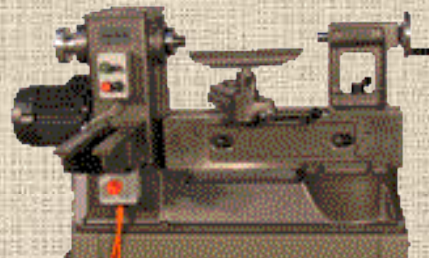
There are a lot of valuable items archived in the File Cabinet section, and you can easily look up the photo gallery for any of the participants, as well as comments posted by any of the members. There is a daily email which summarizes the recent submissions to the site, and I often find myself getting lost in the site over coffee in the morning when I am fortunate enough to have some extra time.

I'll bring my computer to the next meeting to demo the site, providing I can get a Verizon signal at Banshee Reeks for internet access.

## Lathe & Equipment Listings

Terry Lund maintains a listing of what lathes members own, which can be used by other members who might be considering a purchase of a new (or additional) lathe. Terry is interested in adding some additional information to this listing to also include some specialized tooling or other items that might be of interest to other members, such as the following items:

1. Hollowing system(s)
2. Coring system(s)
3. Favorite turning tool
4. Favorite homemade tool
5. What model bandsaw
6. What model(s) chainsaw
7. Favorite web site related to woodturning



There will be a copy of the current listing of member lathes at the November meeting, and Terry will have some sign-up sheets to submit this additional information, or you can contact terry via email at [terry.lund@gmail.com](mailto:terry.lund@gmail.com) (his information is also listed on the Contact page on CAT web site to get a copy of the form if you are not able to attend the meeting).

# Christmas Ornaments

With permission of Bob Rosand

If you turn and market Christmas ornaments, you'll find that every year you need to come up with a new ornament, or at least a new variation on the ornaments that you already have.

This point was succinctly made one year when a good customer came into my booth looking for something "different." When I didn't have a "new and improved" Christmas ornament, she responded by saying, "Oh," and exited the booth without buying anything.



The medallion came about because I was trying to come up with a new ornament, and also trying to provide a canvas on wood for my wife, Susan. I also had a lot of scraps and cut-offs that were just too good to throw away, but not big enough for bowls or platters. When I started writing this article, I was a bit concerned that people would not attempt turning this ornament because they could not paint. Fortunately, that is not a problem. If you can paint or have a spouse who paints, this project is great. But you can make numerous variations without being skilled in art. The first is not to paint the ornament at all, but simply to turn the ornament and accentuate the wood. You also can texture the center of the medallion with a Sorby texturing tool or a chatterwork tool.

A second method is to make stencils or purchase them at a crafts supply store and stencil a decoration such as a wreath, reindeer, Christmas tree, dove, or snowflake in the center of the ornament.

A third method is to purchase appropriate ink stamps, stamp the center of the ornament, and then use a pyrography tool to burn the stamp into the ornament. If your penmanship is good, consider customizing the ornament with the year or with the name of a grandchild. Be creative and come up with your own variations.

## ***Get started***

For turning tools you will need a 1/2" or 3/4" spindle roughing gouge, 3/8" spindle gouge, parting tool, 1/2" beading tool (I use an Ashley Iles tool), and texturing tool (Sorby makes the only model I'm aware of).

For turning stock, use end-grain scraps about 4 1/2 x 4 1/2 x 1/2". End grain works great, especially with the texturing tool or the chatterwork tool, but side grain also works. The pieces shown on these pages are turned from ambrosia maple.

Turn the front. Sand one face of the blank flat on a belt sander and glue it, centered, to a wasteblock. For end grain, use a 3/4" spindle roughing gouge to true up the outside of the blank. For side grain, use a standard spindle gouge. Turn the blank to a 4" diameter. Then use a spindle gouge to true up the face of the blank. Note that the tool is turned on its side with the flute pointed in the direction of travel (toward the center). The bevel is rubbing, giving control of the tool. Do not cut with the tip of the tool.



Photo 1: Use a beading tool to cut three beads into the rim of the medallion.

Next define the perimeter of the ornament with three beads with the flute pointed down (Photo 1). With the rim complete, use the spindle gouge to slightly hollow the center of the medallion. If it helps, think of the medallion as a small plate, which it essentially is. If you plan to use a stamp or stencil on the center section, make the medallion a bit flatter so you don't have trouble transferring the stencil or making an impression with the stamp. Now use the spindle gouge to round over the edge of the medallion and start shaping the back. Finish-sand the face of the ornament and the turned portion of the back.

## ***Detail the back***

For me, now comes the fun part. To finish the back of the ornament, reverse the disc and hold it in a vacuum chuck. The vacuum chuck used on this project is from the Summer 2006 issue of *American Woodturner*. You can find a copy of that article on the AAW website ([woodturner.org](http://woodturner.org)).



Photo 2: Turn a tapered tenon on the medallion wasteblock using calipers to check the diameter.

Note: If you don't have a vacuum chuck, make a jam chuck from a wasteblock and friction-fit the medallion into it. When making multiple medallions, carefully turn each medallion to fit one jam chuck, or make a new jam chuck for each different-size medallion.

I always had a difficult time centering work on the vacuum chuck; it was always off just a bit. The solution is incredibly simple.

First measure the inside diameter of the tailstock quill with calipers. Measuring with the calipers, turn a taper on the wasteblock of the medallion (Photo 2), part it off, reverse it, and place the taper into the tailstock quill. Slide the tailstock up to the headstock, press the medallion against the vacuum chuck (Photo 3), and turn on the vacuum pump.



Photo 3: Insert the medallion taper into the tailstock quill and press it against the vacuum chuck.

The piece should be perfectly centered. Just to be safe, put the tail center in place to hold the medallion while turning the back.

When most of the back is turned, back off the tailstock and turn away the remains of the wasteblock (Photo 4). Take gentle cuts or you may pop the piece loose.

With the back of the medallion turned and sanded, you can texture or finish it. I used a Sorby texturing tool to cut decorative spiral lines (Photos 5 and 6).

Use the tool as a scraper with the cutting end of the tool angled down and the handle up. I also tilt the head of the tool to about a 45-degree angle. Engage the tool at the edge of the medallion and move it toward the center. It is important to get the cutterhead rotating before moving



Photo 4: Back off the tailstock and carefully turn away the remaining small tenon.

the tool along the tool rest. If you don't, you risk getting scratch marks as the tool begins to rotate. Experiment with different cutterhead orientations to make different texture patterns.

Now decorate the medallion. Don't forget to drill a 1/16"-diameter hole at the top of the medallion for hanging on a Christmas tree.

Finally, apply a finish (I use Deft satin lacquer).



Photo 5: Texture the back of the ornament with a Sorby texturing tool.



Photo 6: The Sorby texturing tool cuts a beautiful spiral pattern.

**May we all have a very Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving.**



# Mentoring Program

by Terry Lund

**W**e have established a mentoring program for CAT members, so Terry Lund is looking for volunteers to be mentors as well as requests from any of our members who would like to be paired up with a mentor in one of the following areas of interest for turning skills, or for general mentoring activity. Terry will have sign-up forms for those who want to be a mentor as well as for those who would like to be matched up with an assigned mentor at the next meeting on November 11. If you are interested in either opportunity but will not be at the meeting, please contact him via email at [terry.lund@gmail.com](mailto:terry.lund@gmail.com) or call him on his cell phone 585-455-2517. Please include your name, address, phone number, email address, and indicate your level of experience as Beginner, Intermediate, or Experienced when requesting a mentor.

We will try to match interested individuals with a mentor who lives “reasonably close” whenever possible, and if we get enough mentors to sign up, we will also try to match based on one of the following areas of interest, or feel free to mention another area of interest.

## **Areas of interest for mentoring**

Functional turning	Ornaments and small items
Artistic turning	Pens and Pencils
Bowls	Lidded Boxes
Natural Edge Bowls	Segmented turning
Square Bowls	Spindle turning
Hollow forms	Turning/Chasing Threads

## Member Discounts

# Woodcraft of Leesburg



Leesburg Plaza

512 E. Market

Leesburg, VA 20176

Phone: 703-737-7880

Fax: 703-737-6166

[Leesburg@woodcraft.com](mailto:Leesburg@woodcraft.com)

**Store Hours:** Sun: 9 AM— 5 PM Thr: 9 AM— 9 PM  
Mon: 9 AM—9 PM Fri: 9 AM— 9 PM  
Tue: 9 AM— 9 PM Sat: 9 AM- - 6 PM  
Wed: 9 AM— 9 PM

Show your CAT membership card and get a 10% DISCOUNT! Valid Thursday thru Sunday of each monthly meeting week.

## Dunlap Woodcrafts

Located near the Dulles Expo Center at  
14600F Flint Lee Road, Chantilly, VA 20151  
Tel (703) 631-5147 Fax. (703) 631-7103

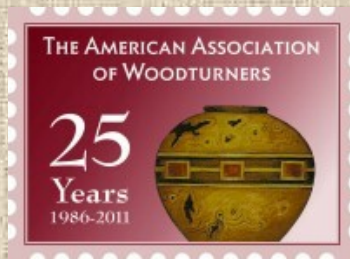
### Discounts are available to CAT members

Purchase \$100 and receive a 10% discount  
Purchase \$250 and receive a 15% discount  
Purchase \$500 and receive a 20% discount

I would suggest that you give them a call prior to making the trip to ensure that they are open.

# Symposium

**2011 AAW Symposium**  
**June 24—26**  
**St. Paul Minnesota**  
**At the St. Paul River Center**



Additional information on this symposium can found in the AAW site.

[http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2011/recent\\_info.htm](http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2011/recent_info.htm)

