

# Woodturners of North Texas

A CHAPTER OF THE  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS

## March 2011 Program:

# Pens From Pinecones And Acrylic Laminates

by Ken Cardin

### Next Meeting:

Thursday,  
March 31, 2011  
Start Time: 6:30 PM

R. D. Evans Recreational  
Center  
3242 Lackland Rd.  
Fort Worth, TX

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When I retired in 2002, much to my wood turning surprise, that was not on my retirement agenda; instead, flat work and fishing were going to be my leisure activities. The flat work phase came and went with book-cases and simple furniture being made for one or another of my six children. Then out of the blue the VORTEX hit! My wife Susan and I were attending a woodworking show in Arlington looking for a new project for me when she spotted a mini-lathe. She told me, much to my surprise, that she would like to get one to play with and maybe spend some time with me in the shop. It is impossible for me to turn down an opportunity to get a new tool so it came home to my shop and we dove head first into the wood turning vortex. We soon attended several classes together, and I was off on the quest for the perfect bowl.



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President's message

by Dave Marshall

# ... making Good Shavings

March is that month that comes in like a lion and out like a lamb. And that statement was pretty much true for the first couple of weeks at my lathe. I had a bowl blank cut and mounted between centers. It had a nice (at least interesting) bark inclusion running through it. A small challenge, but doable. Powered up the lathe and place tool edge to piece....One cut...two cuts and on the third...WHAM! It broke right in half, throwing both pieces across the shop. Luckily my face guard took the brunt of one of the pieces as it was placed where it usually is... hanging on the peg-board behind the lathe. It was a close one.

I decided to move on to some cedar that Sandy Jarrell and Gene Rattan "harvested" from the middle school across the street from Gene's. Cedar being a nice soft wood and these pieces being green produced some nice long,

aromatic shavings.

Once one of the bowls was turned thin (and still seemingly stable – not warping) I decided to play it safe and do some sanding with the lathe off. I didn't want to break this piece as the flaming figure was just too pretty. Started sanding away and WHACK! Darn thing broke into 3 pieces! Ugh. Glued it back together and set it aside to work on the second piece of cedar. It too decided to throw pieces of itself off the lathe and across the shop. "In like a lion".

Oh well. Time to move onto some better behaved wood. A few bowls out of seasoned black walnut and a vessel from some elm were "up." Ahhhhh. "Out like a lamb," seemed to be the prudent sentiment. No premature departures from the lathe. Good shavings. Nice finishes. Happy customers. And a happy "me."

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*Pens ..... (continued from page 1)*

After joining the WNT club and expanding our knowledge base, I discovered that the perfect bowl is the size of a salad bowl but you can't turn one that size on a mini lathe. And then came an excursion to SWAT in Wichita Falls to bask in the reflected glory of all the really good artistic turners. BEWARE, for SWAT may cause you to take out a second mortgage on your house! I bought lots of neat stuff and learned lots of neat things. Then in the very last hour of the last day we were walking by a booth set up by one of the wood craft stores. They were complaining among themselves about having to load that heavy &\*%\$(\*& piece of scrap iron....My ears perked up and I smelled a deal about to happen. It was a POWER-MATIC, and I was in love again. We cut a deal for \$450 off the price, and I stood there dreaming of turning whole tree trunks on this monster! Then the reality hit me - how was I going to get this 700-lb beauty back home? At the same show, there were a couple of guys selling mobile bases for the Powermatic, and I bought the base from them, and they were able to get the base under the Powermatic for me. So here I am on Sunday afternoon in Wichita Falls trying to rent a trailer



to transport the lathe back home. Long story shortened some....we got it loaded and home and I haven't done a piece of flat work since then. My efforts at becoming one with the lathe seem to happen with me concentrating on one type of turning for about one year. Last year my project was turning pens. I did 10 or so wooden pens experimenting with different shapes and was on the edge of being bored when I thought I would try different materials for a pen. I picked up several pine cones and went to work and was actually able to make a pen out of pine cones! I only made one pen out of pine cones and then needed to move to something else (that should give you an idea of my attention span). Having some interest in segmented turning, I applied segmenting concepts to making acrylic pens and that was good for a much longer learning curve since my three daughters all wanted one of those pens. For 2011 I am going to focus on segmented projects. That's the best thing about turning, there is always something new to learn and try.



I hope that all of you have had good times at the lathe this month. It has been a great month for turning (guess what? All months are great times for turning!). The weather has been nice and especially nice was that this past week was Spring Break and all of my kids were off doing their own thing which allowed Tracy and me to venture out to west Texas and Big Bend country to explore. We loaded up the car with all our necessary tools and headed west. Took a left at Pecos and dove south to Big Bend in search of some gnarly wood to bring back home to turn. As Gomer Pyle would say, "desolate, desolate, desolate!" We had to drive quite a ways into the park proper before we started spying choice turning blanks. We came across a nice little treasure along a stream bed, so I pulled out my trusty 16" electric Remington chainsaw and plugged it into the power converter. No sooner than I had begun to "thin the herd" along this creek bed did a dude appear asking what in the hell I was doing. Not knowing what this "cub scout" was really about and what his beef was, I continued to unleash a nice burl that been entombed for decades – if not centuries – in a large piece of mesquite. It

turns out – says the judge – that you can't do that. Go figure. So we came back empty handed and with a future court date. "Out like a lion."

Spaces for Cindy Drozda's classes in May are filling up fast! If you didn't get a chance to sign up at the last month's meeting, please give John Horn or James Haynes a call to secure your spot. Again, we'll have an all-day turning demo with Cindy on Saturday, April 30th at the community center (\$10 attendance fee – a GREAT deal!) and her hands-on classes will start on Sunday and again be hosted at Dr. Gill's shop. Cindy's expertise provides us the ability to offer a wide range of classes encompassing all skill levels. I encourage you not to miss this fantastic opportunity. Check out the class descriptions on the website ([www.wntx.org](http://www.wntx.org)) and give John Horn a call immediately to get enrolled.

So spring 2011 is officially here. A time of renewal...Rebirth...Reinvigoration. Get out to the shop and show us some of your new work at the next Club meeting. We'll see you on the 31st.

Good shavings to all,

*Dave*



# Cindy Drozda

## WNT Hands-on Demonstrator *for* May 2011



Cindy Drozda will be our Spring Demonstrator/Hands-on Instructor from April 30th-May 5th. Cindy is recognized all over the world as an artist and excellent demonstrator/instructor.

### *My Philosophy:*

*The more we are exposed to different methods and ideas, the more we expand our own horizons. The energy that you give your club by providing the members with a program of non-local demonstrators brings a world of ideas to your group! My professional woodworking career of over 30 years includes full time woodturning since 1996. The elegant lidded vessels that I am known for are exhibited at the finest Galleries and Art Shows in the country. I demonstrate and teach a variety of woodturning projects at symposia, guilds, and clubs around the country. My program can be custom designed to fit your club's meeting schedule, and the skill level of the workshop participants. What I do best is teach precise woodturning technique and design to all levels through a series of projects that are designed to provide exercise in both turning and design skills.*

### *Demonstrations:*

*I always put together an exciting program full of techniques, tips, tricks, and ideas! My presentations include informative handouts on the subject, plus a source list. I like to put variety into my presentations; even if someone has seen me before they will see something new. To give the symposium or club meeting attendees 110%, I go out of my way to make myself accessible to everyone before, during, and after the event for advice, problem solving, or socializing. I am also available by email for further questions in the future. An all-day demonstration usually consists of 2 - 3 separate topics, with a break in between. The demonstration can be a preview or review of the projects taught in the hands-on sessions*

The tuition for each of the hands-on classes is \$125 per day which is due at the time you register. You may register for as many days as you wish as long as there is an opening. Classes will be limited to six per class. Since the hands-on classes should fill up very rapidly, be sure to sign up as soon as you can. Registration will be limited to WNT members until March 31st. If there are any spaces still available after the club meeting on March 31st, registration will be open to anyone who would like to attend a hands-on class with Cindy Drozda.

There will be an **all-day demonstration on Saturday, April 30th** at the R. D. Evans Community Center starting at 9 AM and ending about 4 PM. The fee for the Saturday demo is \$10 at the door.

**Schedule of classes:**      **All the classes will be at Dr. Jimmie Gill's shop** at 3425 Meadow Oaks Drive, Haltom City, TX.

### **Sunday, May 1st**

1 day

Learn to have a light touch and careful aim, and the confidence to make thin, delicate turnings.

Challenging and inspiring - for any skill level.

### **Finial Turning Intensive**

### **Monday, May 2nd**

1 day

Get started in Woodturning! Learn basic techniques while making a vase, bowl, or other project.

No woodturning experience is necessary. This class is an excellent "tune-up" for experienced turners!

### **Woodturning Essentials**

### **Tuesday, May 3rd**

1 day

Using multiple centers, a triangular shape is created on the lathe. This class covers the layout technique and some ways to use it to enhance turned projects. We will create a Triangular Box, combining multi-axis technique with basic box-making techniques.

### **Triangular Box and other Multi-Axis spindle projects**

### **Wednesday & Thursday, May 4th & 5th**

2 days

The subject of this class is my "signature" style of lidded container with a finial; my most popular demonstration and workshop subject. Students are guided through the techniques and procedures involved in this project. The study of tools and technique, and the complexity of the box(es) and finial can be adjusted to make this a two day class.

### **Finial Box**

For further information about Cindy Drozda consider viewing her web site: [www.cindydrozda.com](http://www.cindydrozda.com)

# Cindy Drozda Turnings





# Librarian's Corner

## Randy Johnson



## REVIEW

Subject: Two Ways To Make A Bowl  
By Randy Johnson

This month's review is a very interesting video called *Two Ways to Make a Bowl* or the subtitle *The Most Fun You Can Have While Turning! An instructional video*. When Stuart Batty and Mike Mahoney get together the fun begins. Even though they poke fun at each other all through the video, the amount of great information is staggering. This has to be the best instructional video on bowl turning that I have ever seen. One is a production turner, making utility type of bowls and the other is an artist who makes fewer bowls but puts a little more into the bowls he makes.

Surprisingly, even though they are turning for different clientele, there are many things they both agree upon. They both use the same lathe and the same type of wood, but each demonstrates his method for turn-

ing a bowl. Stuart Batty is a third generation turner raised in the orthodox method of turning. What is the orthodox method of turning? You will have to watch the video. Mike Mahoney is basically self-taught and is now learning the logic behind why there is a structured method of turning in England.

The first things they cover are the five basic rules for turning. What are these? They are the things that you should cover before you ever turn you lathe on:

- 1) Sharp - Are your tools sharp? Are they ground correctly? Are you even picking up the correct tool?
- 2) Grain - What is the grain orientation of the piece you are going to turn? Is it end grain, face grain, burl? Is it spindle or bowl turning?
- 3) Tool rest - Do you have the tool rest at the right height?
- 4) Speed - Are you running too slow? Are you running too fast?
- 5) Stance - How you stand is dependent upon the style of turning.

Do you turn like Mike or do you turn like Stuart?

They then go through a great list of things to consider if you are going to be a bowl turner.

The list includes:

- Tool Angles / Proper Grinding
- Push Cut versus Pull Cut
- Spigots and Chucks

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- The Push Cut
- The Pull Cut
- Two Styles for the Inside Cut
- Making the Inside Cut
- Using the Jamb Chuck
- Drying
- Helpful Tips

This video is a great resource if you are just starting out in bowl turning. There is so much good information that I will just mention some related to drying. Do you have trouble with your bowls cracking? Do you know where in the tree the wood was removed, is it from a limb or the trunk? Do you rough turn your bowl before you finish turn the bowl? How do you store your rough turned bowls? Do you turn kiln dried wood? What are the problems, if any, of turning kiln dried wood? All of these questions and more are answered in the wood drying section of the video.

It is truly a great instructional video and must be viewed by any turner who turns or plans on turning a bowl, which should be every member of the club as the Empty Bowls charity project can always use our efforts for their great cause.

Happy turning!



## Last Month's Program

Jimmie Arledge showed us how to turn a sphere inside of a box and what jigs and tools are needed to do this.



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# New Members

Dale Abshire	Colleyville
Julie Balza	Fort Worth
David Colley	Arlington
Tommy Duff	Granbury
Phillip Herskowitz (returning member)	Chico
Aaron Levy (returning member)	Fort Worth
C. David Lewis	Arlington
Mike Oliver	Arlington
Bob Wiggins	Arlington
Bob Wells	Fort Worth
J.R. McGregor	Weatherford



## Advertisements

### Anchorseal®

The club has purchased a 55-gallon drum of Anchorseal sealant for green wood and it is available to members for \$9.00 per gallon. It can be purchased at club meetings and at other times is being stored at Jimmie Gill's place, 3425 Meadow Oaks Dr. in Haltom City. Contact James Haynes for payment.

See the [WNT web site ads page](#) for the latest information on what other members have for sale.

Rules for advertisements: Free ads are available only to WNT members. The deadline for submission or cancellation of an ad is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month to be placed in that month's newsletter. Ads will only run for one issue unless notified otherwise. If you wish to continue running an ad for more than one month, please advise the editor, John Chandler, by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month. Also, if you decide to cancel an ad, please notify the editor by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Woodcraft offers a 10% discount to current Woodturners of North Texas members. Show your membership card in order to get the discount.



Rockler also offers a 10% discount to current Woodturners of North Texas members. Show your membership card in order to get the discount.

## Calendar

**NOTE:** The Regular Monthly Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month at the R. D. Evans Recreational Center, 3242 Lackland Rd., Fort Worth, Texas. Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at **Tommy's**, 5228 Camp Bowie, north of I-30. Check the WNT web site for any updates. All WNT members are invited to attend. If you would like to join the group for dinner, it begins at 6 PM and the business meeting starts at 6:30 PM.

**March 31** - Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, R. D. Evans Rec. Center, Demonstrator: **Ken Cardin - Pens Using Pine Cones and Laminate Acrylics**

**April 5** - WNT Board Meeting

**April 28** - Regular Monthly meeting 6:30 PM, R. D. Evans Rec. Center, Demonstrator: **TBA**

**April 30** - Cindy Drozda **All-day Demonstration**, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, \$10, R. D. Evans Rec. Center

**May 1 - May 5** - **Hands-on classes with Cindy Drozda**, 3425 Meadow Oaks Drive, Haltom City, TX

**May 3** - WNT Board Meeting

## Board of Directors

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Home phone 817-738-6815

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Home Phone 817-732-2916

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**Newsletter – John Chandler**

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**Secretary – Fred Denke**

Home Phone 817-292-3479

**WNT WEB SITE:**

<http://www.wntx.org>

The Woodturners of North Texas newsletter is published monthly. Inputs are due to the editor by the tenth of each month for inclusion in that month's newsletter.

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