



THE TURNING TIMES

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Visit us at www.easttexaswoodturners.org

The Turning Times is published monthly as an information source for members of the East Texas Woodturners (ETW). ETW is a chapter of The American Association of Woodturners (AAW) and is committed to serving woodturners in the East Texas area surrounding Tyler, Texas. The ETW Chapter joins with the AAW in its dedication to providing education, information and organization to those interested in woodturning.

Meeting at TJC West

May 9, 2015



The Prez says:

I usually keep up to 6 gallons of Anchoseal in my truck in a plastic tub (the type used in restaurants for clearing tables). In getting a gallon for someone at our 4/11 meeting, I discovered a half-full jug had developed a crack and leaked into the tub – what a mess! I was grateful for the tub avoiding a much bigger mess, however.

And then several days later, I took several bags of lathe cuttings out to the burn pile in my truck and (you guessed it) got stuck. I was beginning

to feel like Joe Btfsplk, the Li'l Abner character (yeah, I know – my age is showing).

Keith Gotschall put on a great demo at our 4/11 meeting – I had fun picking up a few pointers, especially how he did his platter bottom on the off-set turning – I tried this technique on a recent turning and I really like it. It was a lot quicker than setting up my donut chuck. I also downloaded the “salturn” plans – anyone turned one of these yet?

On 4/22, six of us went to Longview to visit with Norm Dixon’s widow, Dorothea (a delightful lady also from England). She was donating most of Norm’s vast wood collection to ETW (he was a prolific turner and wood collector) – we loaded Wayne Smith’s tandom trailer and Tom Crosby’s pickup. About half of Norm’s stash was behind his house on a rear porch (that’s down some stairs, folks, around the corner, and up a couple of steps to the porch) – we were glad it wasn’t August!

We will be offering this free wood to ETW members – **please watch for details** – we expect to start at the 5/9 meeting.

I’m looking forward to Dennis Ford’s program for our 5/9 meeting – “Hollowing through the bottom”. Dennis always provides good instructional material – we’ll see you on 5/9.

OK, folks, go turn something!

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CLUB CALENDAR:

May 9, Regular meeting
(Demo by Dennis Ford)

June 13, Regular meeing
(Demo by Robert Trimmel)

July 8th, Steering Committee

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Ad Policy: Classified ads run for 3-months unless the editor is notified they are no longer needed. At the end of the 3-month period, the ad will be dropped from the newsletter unless specifically renewed prior to the period expiration.

For Sale: Woodturning Aprons – Made of material that sheds those pesky shavings - \$25.00. Please contact Kay Leonard at 903- 592-6009 or at kayl99417@gmail.com

For sale: 10 inch Hybrid Craftsman Professional table saw. Extra large granite table top. Cabinet is heavy gage welded steel, 4 inch dust port, 1 3/4 hp, 3450 rpm, 120/240 v. Bought August 2014. Paid \$1099 plus tax. Sell for \$500.00. Contact: **Don Osada, 903 894 3687.**

For Sale: Dennis Lorenz has about 275 new (but old) USA twist drill bits from Archie's estate (sizes range from 5/64" to 1/2") - all are in great condition. These are for sale at about 50% of retail (proceeds go to Archie's widow) If you are interested, call Dennis at 903-565-0675 for details

Personalized Turning Classes:

Paul Coppinger - Mineola - 903-638-6008
paulcop68@thecoppingers.net

FREE (to a good home) - one 55 gallon Anchorseal drum - there is still a bit of residue to clean out. Comes with lid and 2 bungs. Call Dennis Lorenz (903-565-0651) if you want it.

Mineola Open Shop Turning Day

MOST meeting date: May 16, 2015

Turning, Fun and Fellowship

If we're not having fun, we're not doing it right!

Set-up and Clean-up Teams - May Meeting

Set-Up

Marvin Cade, Worth Holmes, Lino Martinez, Dennis Ford

Clean-Up

Worth Holmes, David Largent, Rex Parkinson, Lino Martinez, Jeremy Dearman

Thank you all for volunteering!

Free Wood

A giant “Thanks” goes out for the six members who went to Dorothea Dixon’s home and loaded up a full trailer load of wood from Norman’s stash. There are boxes of partially turned items as well as plenty of, mostly local, woods. All of this is for you! Wayne Smith will have a trailer load of this wood in the parking lot of TJC at the next club meeting, May 9. Please plan to be there to claim your fair share. There is plenty for all, and Wayne does not want to take any back home.

Welcome new members

Judy & Butch Johnson
PO Box 8
Golden TX 75444
(Cell) 319-850-7864
judycjohnson52@gmail.com

Buck Carr
2105 FM21
Mt Vernon TX 75451
(Cell) 903-573-3032

ANCHOR SEAL FOR SALE

The Club has Anchor Seal end grain sealer for sale at most Club meetings. It is available in 1 and 2 gallon jugs at \$10.00 per gallon. To obtain it, pay our treasurer, Walter Tate, and then see Dennis Lorenz. If you need some between meetings, contact Dennis at 903-565-0651 or dlorenz67@gmail.com

March Meeting Pictures



"Winged bowl" turned during demonstration



Keith Gotschall demonstrating "back hollowing" with a spindle gouge



Keith drilling center and off-center holes for a screw chuck mounting (front side of platter)



Cutting beads with a spindle gouge



Keith turning backside of platter (mounted off-center on screw chuck)

Mentor List

Mark Anthony	903-963-7128	Van	emark_anthony@gmail.com
Paul Coppinger	903-638-6008	Mineola	paulcop68@thecoppingers.net
Tom Criswell	903-509-1042	Tyler	tom_criswell@yahoo.com
Tom Crosby	903-567-4701	Canton	ctomsturnings@aol.com
L. V. Filak	903-885-2550	Sulpher Springs	lrfilak2@suddenlink.net
Ed Heuslein	903-834-3838	Kilgore	heuslein@gmail.com
Walter Tate	903-839-6505	Tyler	waltertate1@suddenlink.net
Ken Terrell	903-839-4735	Whitehouse	kpterrell@suddenlink.net

East Texas Woodturner's Supporters

The following businesses have graciously provided support for the activities of the East Texas Woodturner's club. Please show your gratitude by giving them your business when possible.

Craft Supplies USA

1287 E. 1120 S., Provo, UT 84606
1-800-551-8876
FAX: 801-377-7742

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

Hartville Tool

13163 Market Ave N Hartville, OH 44632
800-345-2396

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

Johnson Wood Products

34897 Crystal Rd., Strawberry Point, IA 52076
563-933-6504 CST

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

Klingspor's Woodworking Shop

3 Locations in North Carolina
1-800-228-0000 EST

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

Packard Woodworks

P.O. Box 718, Tryon, NC 28782
1-800-683-8876
FAX: 828-859-5551

<http://www.packardwoodworks.com/index.html>

Rockler

Promenade North Shopping Center
800 North Coit #2500
Richardson, TX 75080
(972) 613-8848 CST

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

Thompson Lathe Tools

5479 Columbia Road North Olmsted, OH 44070
440-241-6360 CST

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

Woodcraft

Suite 145 601 W. Plano Parkway Plano, TX 75075
(972) 422-2732

<http://www.woodcraft.com/stores/store.aspx?id=317>

Woodline.com

111 Wheeler St., LaVergne, TN 37086
615-793-0474 CST

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

Wood World

13650 TI Blvd. #101, Dallas, TX 75243
972-669-9130 CST

<http://woodworldtx.com/>

Storing Wood & Drying Turnings

Dennis Ford

Why does wood crack?

- Mechanical damage - usually happens before we get the wood. "Life is too short to turn crappy wood" applies to wood with existing cracks in my opinion.
- Drying too fast - happens when the surface dries and shrinks while the center is still moist. "Too fast" is not a specific time frame, it depends on species and thickness. Pine that is 1/4 inch thick may be dried outside in two days without damage while White Oak 2 inches thick dried outside in 6 months will likely be cracked.
- Differential shrinkage - as wood dries, it shrinks. The shrinkage is not the same in all directions; along the grain it shrinks almost none, the radial shrinkage (from pith toward bark) is less than the tangential shrinkage (around the growth rings). The different shrinkage causes the shape of pieces to change (warp) which puts stress on the wood. The thicker the wood; the more stress is involved. For most woods, there is some thickness where this stress will cause cracking no matter how slowly the wood is dried.

I prefer to turn bowls and hollow forms from green wood, sometimes turning to final thickness while wet and sometimes rough turning before drying and re-turning. Getting the green wood is not a big problem, storing the wood is not so simple. Storing wood is more about keep it moist than drying it (drying logs or thick sections will have a very high failure rate. Storing wood during the winter months is easier than summer time. Our East Texas winters are cool enough that decay happens slowly and wet enough that drying is greatly reduced. In the summer the higher temperatures cause problems with decay and drying (drying results in cracking).

Following these steps will keep wood intact for as long as possible: Leave the length as long as feasible, Seal the ends, Keep the wood out of direct sunlight, For bowls; split the log in half lengthwise, Keep the wood off of contact with the ground unless you are trying to encourage spalt, **Turn the wood as soon as possible**. Some species store better than others.

Turning to final thickness while wet. Many of us like knots and "character" in the final product but they can lead to cracks and failed turnings. I believe that character goes well with the distortion that comes from turning to final thickness while wet. A consistent thickness that is "fairly thin" will avoid most cracking problems (assuming that no cracks were already there). How thin "fairly thin" is depends on our skill and tolerance to failure. Thicker is more likely to crack after turning, thinner will warp more and is less likely to crack. Most pieces turned this way can be wrapped in brown paper and left in the shop for a few days to dry with a high success rate, if really thin and small enough; they can be dried in a microwave and finished the same day.

Rough turning before drying, then turning a second time. Selection of the wood and careful attention to thickness are important to success here. Avoid knots and the pith for the best success rate. Existing cracks will almost always result in a failed piece. The common "rule of thumb" for thickness is 10 percent of the diameter (a 10 inch diameter bowl would be turned to 1 inch thickness). This rule has worked well for me. An important concept is that the thickness needs to be consistent, it is OK for the bottom to be slightly thinner than the edge but it is NOT a good idea for the bottom to be thicker. If the rough turned bowl is too thick; it is more likely to crack. Some woods can be turned thicker than 10% if they are resistant to splitting (elm is a good example). If the rough turned bowl is too thin; the warping will not leave enough wood to make a round bowl. Some woods can be turned a little thinner than 10% but I rarely do. With some woods the difference between too thick and too thin is a slim margin for error (oak is a good example).

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Drying after rough turning. My primary goal is to dry the turning without causing cracks, the simple way is to slow the drying rate. There are many methods, I have tried some:

- Wrapping with brown paper – drying is fairly quick (6 – 12 weeks), works well in winter months, too much cracking in summer for most woods. I have heard of putting fresh shavings in with the turning but this caused mold problems when I tried it.
- Sealing entire piece with Anchorseal – my preferred method most of the time, takes a long time to dry (3 – 8 months depending on size and time of year)
- Sealing end grain with Anchorseal – I have NOT tried this.
- Boiling (sealed or wrapped after cooling) - My very limited experience is that it reduced cracking and slightly accelerated drying. Effective for troublesome wood but too much trouble for most pieces in my opinion.
- Soaking in de-natured alcohol (wrapped afterward) – I have NOT tried this but quite a few people use this method, it allows somewhat faster drying.
- Soaking in detergent (wrapped or coated afterward) – I have NOT tried this.
- There are probably other methods.

All of these depend on drying the wood slow enough that the moisture content is not too much different between the surface and the interior. If the surface dries too fast and shrinks much more than the interior; cracking will occur. No drying method that I know of will reduce warping.

If any spalting is present and the temperature is high enough (40 - 50 deg F), the wood will likely continue to spalt until the moisture content is too low to support fungus; this may or may not be a good thing.

Temperature and humidity are important factors; we have to allow for these or attempt to control them. Species of wood is an important factor. Commercial kilns dry lumber quickly by raising the temperature and controlling the humidity so that the drying rate does not exceed what a specific species and thickness can tolerate without damage. In theory turners could do the same but: commercial kilns do not mix species or thicknesses in a batch. Some turners have built kilns and use them successfully (I am sure this is a learning curve of its own).