

Revolutions

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NEWSLETTER FOR THE



spwturners.net

Simple Ball & Cup Toy Complex History

The April Demo, *Making a Ball and Cup Toy*, was another treat from Tom Farrell.

Contents

Club Officers	2
President's Letter	2
No BBQ	2
Under the Shavings	2
2011 SWATurners	3
April Gallery	3
Russ Fairfield	3
Coming Events	5
Haiku 3	6
Our Corporate Members	7

George "Bob" Harbaugh

Accepts First Vice President Vacancy

Bob Harbaugh was the very first president of South Plains Woodturner's Club. He has accepted the First Vice President's position through the end of the club's year. Welcome back, Bob.

Mike Chambers has moved into New Mexico, and he resigned the First Vice President job about a month ago due to conflicts with his move. We will miss Mike, but he promises to remain in the club. One may never hold it against a Texan who moves to breed up New Mexico, so to speak. It is just the mendelian thing to do.

May Meeting Election of Officers

The nominating committee slate of officers is:

President	Jim Harris
First Vice President	Ray Hughes
Secretary	David Turner
Treasurer	Jim Bob Burgoon

When Tom Farrell demonstrates, several things are predictable. He will share his own history with the piece, for example, his father's teaching him about metal spinning. Another predictable is suggesting production techniques. Tom also gives history of the piece.



The rather simple ball and cup toy certainly stimulated Farrell to bring us at least the last two in this demonstration.

The history of this toy shown at left in Kay Agnew's hand is more extensive than one

might think. It is probably an ancient toy, certainly it was produced in varied cultures across the planet for a long time.

Tom told us about the various names in other cultures: *balero* in Mexico; *kendama* in Japan and *bilboquet* in France.

Continued one Page 5
(See Tom's Demo)



John Franklin Stages Show at LHUC

John Franklin will be showing a collection turned, mostly, over last three years at the Louise Hopkins Underwood Center. John, shown at left, explained to the club how the schedule for the exhibit finally has culminated in the display running in April and through the end of May.

One of John's pieces won third place in Lubbock Arts Festival 2010. Another was shown in our 360° exhibit at Lubbock Christian University in 2009

Continued on Page 4 (See John)



Revolutions

Revolutions © is the newsletter for the South Plains Woodturners, an organization dedicated to promoting the craft and art of woodturning. Revolutions is published each month at Lubbock, TX.

The South Plains Woodturners is affiliated with The American Association of Woodturners and The Southwest Association of Turners.

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South Plains Woodturners Officers

President	James "Jim" Harris lapidarius@sbcglobal.net
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Secretary	David Turner turnerdc@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Tom Farrell tom@tomfarrellstudio.com
Member at Large	Bob Herman bherman@nts-online.net
Raffle Manager	Glen Williamson glnwlmsn@aol.com

Notice from the BOD

The South Plains Woodturners Board of Directors reminds every member that the Board meets on the Second Tuesday of every month. The meetings are open to all.

Minutes of the meetings along with a monthly Treasurer's report is available from the Club Secretary, David Turner.

New member dues \$ 2.50 for remaining year.



Proceeds from the Club Raffle pays for coffee, donuts and other club social events.

President's Letter

As I write this I, along with several other S.P.W. Members, are attending the Texas Mesquite Arts Festival in San Angelo, Texas. S.P.W. Member Buddy Compton is exhibiting his turnings for sale and members David Turner, Mike and Vicki Oglesby, Glenn Williamson and Nita Ramage and David Hoehns attended. If it can be made from mesquite wood, you can see it here. This event is held twice a year with the Spring session in San Angelo and the Fall session in Fredericksburg. There will be seminar sessions about working with Mesquite conducted during the Fredericksburg Festival in October 2011. These sessions are sponsored by the Texas Mesquite Association which was established in 1992 by forty persons of varied backgrounds who had an interest in Texas' own exotic hardwood. These included lumbermill operators, fine artisans, woodturners and furniture makers. The Association's membership has grown to over 300 active members and publishes a newsletter devoted entirely to mesquite. For more information about T.M.A. you can go on line and check out their web site at www.texasmesquiteassn.org.

Back to the home front, Bob Harbaugh has graciously accepted appointment to take over the office of First Vice President vacated by Mike Chambers. This will keep the Board of Directors operating with a full crew until the new officers are elected at the May meeting. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers for the 2011-12 club year at the May meeting for your consideration and nominations will be received from the floor.

No BBQ at May Meeting

It was incorrectly reported at the April Meeting that an after-meeting BBQ would be held at the May Meeting. This report was in error. The BOD tabled the idea for study and possible presentation later in the year.

Next Club Meeting

May 7th

Election of Officers

At Target Sheet Metal

In the wood shop

Enter via the West door near rear

South Loop 289 (see map on last page)

Demonstration:

Mike Oglesby

Hollowing Techniques

Meeting starts at 10:00, but come early. Help make the coffee and visit with other turners.



A year ago the Woodturner's club staged a hands-on session following the vote on a bylaws.

Revolutions, May 2010, featured a book review of the great book, Ellsworth on Woodturning: How a Master Creates Bowls, Pots and Vessels. Also the Clay Foster demonstration scheduled of SWAT 2010 was featured. SWAT was great last year and the Foster demos were every bit a good as promised.

Another article last year concerned the Arts Festival. Ron Lowe turned his first bowl at the Festival. We failed to get a place in the Arts Festival this year, but watch for us next year.

Congratulations to Jimmy Edwards

Jimmy, for those who do not know him, is a member of the Comanche Trails, our sister club. He won the four DVD set of Mike Mahoney's video's in the AAW monthly drawing. That is the second winner out of that bunch down there.

We are petitioning AAW to draw a little more north.

Way to go Jimmy.

Membership Dues Payable in June

Membership renewals are due in June, but people may renew at any time. One could see Tom Farrell at the May or June meeting. One may mail \$30.00 check to the club's post office address, **P. O. Box 65428B**

Lubbock, TX 79464

New members may still join for \$ 2.50 in May but their regular dues will still be payable in June.



Woodturners lost one of our own earlier this year when Russ Fairfield died in January. He was a turner, a writer and a teacher, contributing several articles to *American Woodturner* and the *Wood Central* website. Most of his writing is still up on his website:

<http://www.woodturnerruss.com/Index.html>

His artist's statement taken from the above website was "I turn wood at the the lathe because I enjoy doing it, I enjoy the personal recognition it has given me, and I enjoy the satisfaction that I get from doing something that I can do well."

Also from his website article *The "Universal Truths" of Woodturning (As I See Them)* Number 39 of 40. "I have never met a woodturner that I didn't like. There have been a few that have pushed that statement to the limit, but in the end, they are all good folks."

Continued on Page 5 (See Russ-line)



2011 SWATurners Symposium

August 26th to 28th

Waco, Texas

Lead Demonstrators

Nick Arnall

Kip Christensen

Nick Cook

Douglas Fisher

Dave Hout

Alan Lacer

Robert Rosand

Curt Theobald

For links to the various demonstrators go to:

http://www.swaturners.org/jom/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=5&Itemid=13



The April Gallery was small, but it contained some excellent work.



The collaborative work pictured above by Mike and Vicki Oglesby demonstrates their growing power. This hard maple platter, turned by Mike, was completed in December 2010. Vicki, who designed and worked the intricate beading on each side, is very self-critical of the work, but then she knows where the warts grew. The hypnotic spiral, as interesting as it is, pales when one views the bottom of the platter. The pattern and artistic license combine to draw the viewer into and through the piece. The front suggest a time-warp worm hole, but the bottom slaps one into an alternate universe.

Continued on Page 4 (See Gallery)

Revolutions

Gallery (From Page 3)

Below is the bottom of the platter.



Randy Thorne brought in three pieces to the April Gallery.

The first, seen at the right, a piece of whimsy turned from the club's Arizona cypress donated by Jim Harris and prepped by many. Entitled *Nuts*, Randy is concerned it may yet move as it dries more.



At left is Randy's stave vase. The staves are comprised of curly maple with an accent. These sit on a walnut base. The top piece is ambrosia maple.

Randy cut the staves out a long time ago, but the assembly, turning and finishing was complete only on March 30th.

The third piece, an antler handled fire starter is not pictured. **Revolutions** apologizes, but the picture did not turn out clear enough for use.

John (continued from page 1)

Franklin's show opened on First Friday at the Underwood Center. When this writer visited the opening, a brisk crowd view the work, asking questions. One of John's pieces sold before my arrival, and another sale was taking place before I left.



Above on the left an open elm vessel with inlay turned in 2009. To the rear is a larger elm vessel also turned 2009. In the foreground a honey locust with a hand carved collar John finished in 2010.

Below from 2009 an ebonized and hand-carved silver leaf maple vessel.



Although most of John's work was completed during the years 2008 – 2010, the earliest piece seen below is dated 2005. It is natural edged maple vessel.



Revolutions

Tom's Demo

The history of this toy poses some interesting questions. Its simplicity suggests the toy probably was invented many times in many cultures. One source (*Wikipedia* with not source citation whatsoever) puts the invention in 16th Century Mexico. Other sources suggest other cultures invented the toy.

Another website (again with no cited source) discusses the purpose of the toy's creation. It says the toy was invented to aide in teaching manual dexterity useful in hunting or even war.

Certainly the possible early form for the toy makes the above seem logical whether true or not. Two variations of the toy make the hand portion of the toy more like a knife, pointed and narrow. The object of this version is to stab the *knife* into a hole in the ball. The other variation uses a ring instead of a ball at the end of the string.



Tom seems to always approach a piece on multiple planes. The skill or craft is obvious. He also considers and offers tips on production and economy. With the ball and cup toy he devised the two-piece handle to save wood. The hand portion could be made from pen blanks or other 3/4 to 1 inch wood scraps he tells us. The cup is made from thicker, but shorter pieces of wood.



A left is a close-up of Farrell's spindle gouge.

Tom uses hard maple for making the toy. He likes the straight grain, the way it turns, its ready availability and its contrast to the felt tip pens Tom uses to decorate his work.

Tom recommends the use of machined wooden spheres as the cost is so little and the time for turning a sphere is considerable.

The club saw Tom do a detailed demo on a very simple subject.

Don't you have a grandchild waiting for one of these?

Russ-Line Pen Creator

Among other accomplishments, Fairfield developed the Russ-Line pen. Using parts from the slim line pen, Russ eliminated the center-band and changed the diameters of the two parts of the pen where those parts meet. He added decorative bands on the larger of those two meeting ends. At the time Fairfield created this concept only two pen kits were available to turners: slim line and "Parker" types. He essential built a slim line pen that looked like a "Parker" without adding the



weight associated with the "Parker" types.

In the pens at the left the one to the rear is a Russ-Line.

The two fountain pens to the front feature another of Russ' inventions, the invisible clip. This concept was published in "The Invisible Clip",

American Woodturner: Fall 2009, pages 42-46.

The picture is used with the permission of Chris Stolicky. It was taken at *Totally Turning 2011*, a symposium held last month in Saratoga Springs, NY. A complete list of his images taken there may be viewed at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/3368118...7626368194202/>

Stolicky related that "The Late Russ Fairfield: 1936 – 2011" exhibit was organized by Kurt Hertzog. At least one of the pens in the picture belongs to Hertzog.

John Franklin Show (From Page 4)



Box Elder vessel with ebony collar and inlay. Completed in 2009 at left.

Below is a stunning Box Elder completed in 2010. Franklin's show may be viewed every day but Sunday at LHUC, 511 Ave. K



throughay 31st.

Revolutions will distribute images of all of John Franklin's show via a email supplement. Ink and postage costs prohibit mailing the supplement.

Coming Events



Utah Woodturning Symposium May 19th – 21st. For info see:

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

Revolutions

April (Continued from Page 4)

Haiku 3

*oaken burl peeling
the life of the tree swirling
irregularly*

© David Hoehns 2011



At each side are two recent vases by Larry Rogers. The two are similar, but their differences mark them significantly. Each are constructed primarily of mesquite, and both have turquoise inlay accents. Each neck and lip are



turned from wormy ash. The vase on the left has maple rings accenting about a quarter from the bottom and a quarter from the ash while the vase on the right reveals an ogee shape accentuated by natural inclusion and grain.



At left is a beautiful open segmented bowl with an ebony finial. Segments are comprised of calgon teak, mesquite burl, maple, blood wood, tulip wood, ebony, Brazilian rose wood, and spalted maple.



Note, too, the segments on the lid. Above is Larry's lidded box with finial. The wood was sold to him as *black mesquite*. He reports he is satisfied the wood is mesquite. Both box and bowl are completed with a lacquer finish. All four pieces were turned out in March.

Looks like a lot work, Larry.



At left is Buddy Compton's turquoise-inlay mesquite platter. It has been finished with a semigloss lacquer. Buddy reports the sanding time on this piece was immense.

At right is Buddy's latest mesquite bowl. He reported using a scaler to texturize the bowl. The image fails to show this, but the bowl was excellent.

Both of Buddy Compton's pieces were turned in March.



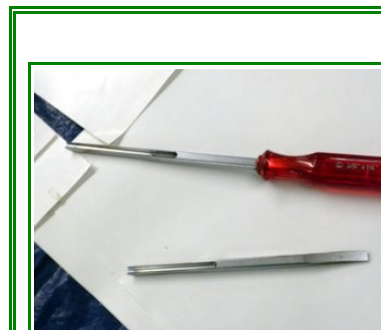
Dick Markham displayed these three sphere forms in the April Gallery. On the right both the sphere and its base are turned from a single piece of manzanita root burl. Manzanita takes its name from apple in a Spanish *cum* Latin sort of way. The natural inclusions in this sphere are reminiscent of a partially eaten apple. Dick is just gnarly enough to have bitten from this apple. He turned the sphere in 2006. At center the sphere is comprised of assorted hardwoods setting on a walnut base. This sphere form was completed in 2008. The other sphere and base are of stained poplar. Dick did not put a date on this one, so we are just saying *made some time since 1865*.



Mike Oglesby was showing this piece, at left, entitled *Broken Heart*. Mike turned it from norfolk island pine, finishing it in March.

Not shown is *Dick Poo Cereal Bowl*, a red oak burl smooth bowl from

the personal collection of Dick Markham. It was finished with epoxy and fiber-glass resin. **Revolutions** regrets that the quality of the image of this fine bowl precludes its inclusion.



Mike Oglesby
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Map to locate club meeting

