

# Revolutions

Vol 7, No. 11

November 2013



## Sara Robinson Webinar

Members present at the November club meeting participated in the first ever woodturning club webinar. Viewed through Adobe Connect and Ron Barnett's Iphone, Sara Robinson, noted researcher into wood spalting, presented the Webinar to up to eight clubs in the US and Canada.

Robinson was assisted on her end by one person, probably a graduate assistant. Her work has drawn some controversy due to her scientific position vs. un-



informed fears of lung infection. Robinson says that the spalting fungi are so specific to wood, that their threat to humans inhaling them is non-existent. Wood dust on the other hand should not be inhaled, but a walk in the woods may result in more fungi in one's lungs than from turning spalted wood.

The use of fungi induced coloration to enhance wood art is not new, R. A. Blanchette linked Italian Renaissance wood art embellishment with coloration identical to a wood fungi isolated in the Minnesota forests. More information about this may be found at Dr. Tom Volk's fungus website [http://botit.botany.wisc.edu/toms\\_fungi/jul2008.html](http://botit.botany.wisc.edu/toms_fungi/jul2008.html).

Continued on page 4, see Webinar

## The Webinar Concept

Using a webinar to teach and learn about woodturning is a relatively new idea, but the process has been used for decades by higher education, business and government. The first use of these usually involved a satellite transmission with phone in response by distant participants. The internet, however, now may connect any user with internet access. One free application available since 2003, Skype, could allow for limited sharing of ideas and methods. Adobe licenses a product called *Connect* free to the public, but it sells the right to host or bridge a webinar. The cost bridging this with Adobe Connect to up to 200 distal sites is reasonable. The technology for the concept is simple and readily available.

Two factors have hindered the previous development of this process. First the nationally known demonstrators who are in demand for club demonstrations and classes may have to change their business plans. Currently for expenses and a fee, they will show up to demonstrate and teach. Depending upon the turner, these fees may represent a significant portion of their annual income as they often promote or sell signature tools to their students. Liability is the other hindrance to the webinar. Lathe work may be hazardous. In our current litigious culture, teaching a process over the internet may be viewed as posing serious liability risks. The abundance of YouTube demonstrations suggest many do not fear this process, but it remains a concern.

The webinar is here to stay. Harry Hamilton, who was instrumental in the Robinson webinar is at work on another one.

## Christmas Party

The Club Christmas party and gift exchange is set for Dec 14<sup>th</sup> at the Lubbock Women's Club. The gift exchange is optional. To participate one should bring a turned piece representing their best work at their skill level.

The Board of Directors have finalized the menu for the Christmas Party:

- Chili Rubbed Pork Tenderloin*
- w/Cider Bourbon Sauce & Cranberry Chutney*
- Creamy Potatoes Gratin*
- Mixed Vegetable Blend*
- Hot Brandied Fruit*
- Dinner Rolls*
- Frosted Cranberry Cherry Pie*

Tickets may be purchased at the December meeting from the Treasurer, Bob Herman, for \$25 per person

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# Revolutions

**Revolutions** © is the newsletter for the South Plains Woodturners, a non-profit 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

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Web Master	<b>Trav Washburn</b> <a href="mailto:travwashburn@gmail.com">travwashburn@gmail.com</a>

## Notice from the BOD

The South Plains Woodturners Board of Directors reminds Every member that the Board meets on the Tuesday Following Saturday regular meeting. The meetings are open to all.

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

**Dues for 2013-2014 Year are payable now.**

**Annual Dues \$30**

**Household Member \$15**

**Prorated New Member Dues \$17.50 and \$8.75**

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## President's Notes

Having experienced Thanksgiving, where I probably ate too much, I wanted to express how thankful I am for the association we share. Before the foundation of SPW, I thought it would be great to have something like we have now. I am grateful to our founders for their efforts and hard work to establish SPW. Once I heard about the formation of the club, I was excited! When I attended the inaugural meeting, I was amazed at the number of local people who shared my passion. The associations I have had during our existence, have been a blessing to my life!

I like the opportunity to learn! We are truly blessed that we have so many talented individuals among our membership. I have never been a part of an association where there has been such a willingness to share. It never ceases to amaze me that I learn something new from the demonstrations, whether it is a technique, design, or an idea. The show-and-tell portions of our meetings, sparks more interest than I have the time to develop. So many projects, so little time! Isn't it wonderful that we are not all the same?

A friend recently commented that when it came to lathe work, I was gifted. My reply was no, not really. In retrospect, I think he was right. God has blessed me with the ability to enjoy this craft and pass that on to others. Sometimes, that takes the form of creating something beautiful. Other times, it is seeing the appreciation of a recipient of one of my turnings. The ultimate blessing is seeing someone else acquire the skills to do the same. We have so many chances to pass our blessings on to others. My challenge to you is to look for more ways to bless others with the woodturning passion we share.

Jim Bob Burgoon

## Next Club Meeting Dec 7<sup>th</sup>

### 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

*Raffin Styled Lidded Box*

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

## Banksia

Last month Randy Thorne had some pieces created out of banksia cones or pods, a salt and pepper shaker and a small lidded box. The club's *Show and Tell Gallery* has included other banksia pod pieces before this.



Randy Thorne

These pods are the seed cluster a beautiful Australian flower genus, *Banksia*. A wild flower, banksia varieties range from shrubs to tree forms. The blossoms are heavy with nectar and, thus, provide an important food source for insects, birds, and mammals, including the indigenous people. This genus is named for Sir Joseph Banks, an English scientist who ac-

companied James Cook on the historic circumnavigation of 1768-1771 in *HMS Endeavor*.

Randy's cones were from the *Banksia grandis*, also called bull banksia. This giant flower grows on a tree that may occasionally exceed forty-feet in height. The cones grow a tough outer crust that holds a fuzzy layer which must be turned away. The next layer in the cone is woody with seed filled occlusions. At center lies a dense woody core that runs from end to end. The center core is suitable for turning finials as the seed occlusions lie outside this area.



Typically, banksia pods are prepared for turning on the bandsaw where the ends are cut leaving a parallel surface. Woodturners usually turn the pods mounted such that the central axis runs through the dense core as this core makes an adequate support for center mounted turning. Turners usually make a tenon to mount the pod in a four-jaw chuck. Turning banksia is a bit messy, but the cones or pods offer an interesting surface appearance and the opportunity to demonstrate some intricate spindle work.

Banksia, dependent on water and certain co-flora grow near the Australian coasts as a halo. They are also exported to florists around the world. These banksia were seen at an on the street floral vendor in San Francisco in 2011.



Image credits: Ed Spense, Wikipedia and David Hoehns

## Club Calendar

Date	Event
12/07/13	Regular Club Meeting Demonstrator: Mike Oglesby
12/09/13	Board of Director's Meeting
12/12/13	Christmas Party
01/04/14	Regular Club Meeting Demonstrator: Michelle Kraft
01/07/14	Regular Club Meeting
02/01/14	Regular Club Meeting Demonstrator: Janice Levi
04/10/14	Lubbock Arts Festival
04/11/14	Lubbock Arts Festival
04/12/14	Lubbock Arts Festival
04/13/14	Lubbock Arts Festival
06/07/14	Election of Officers at Regular Club Meeting
09/12/14	Set up for Fall Fest
09/13/14	Fall Fest at Garden and Arts Center

### Reflecting Upon the Woodturners Club

**One year**, one month, eighteen days, twelve hours, thirty-six minutes later and counting, as a member of the South Plains Woodturners club, it has been the most enjoyable group experience I've ever had; except maybe for my fifteen years in the Boy Scouts of America.

**The members** have demonstrated lots of heartfelt caring as they have freely shared their experiences, knowledge and tool use on woodturning to me and other new members. There has been lots of great memories of humorous good natured jostling between members at each monthly meeting; which keeps me smiling even now. A healthy atmosphere of "lets have fun & be ourselves" pervades each gathering of this bunch of wood chippers. Yes...a genuine love of all things involving "wood" comes with the membership package. And as one member remarked: "I've work with wood in almost every imaginable way, and woodturning to me, represents the dessert of woodwork. And who doesn't desire delicious treats served several times a day".

**Hands on** instructional workshops by club members and other visiting woodturners continues to inspire me, as a catalyst to more fully explore my talents. Of course the monthly club demos causes one to look at different ways of working the wood and new ideas in design. For all my life, spending time in libraries has been a watering hole for me to refresh the mind. Thus I truly and deeply appreciate the fact that the club maintains an extensive collection of books and videos on the art of woodturning.

**Not only has** the club challenged me in many positive ways, as a stimulus for change and growth, it continues to do so for the membership as a whole. So as the club, with the vigilant guidance of the board, reaches out to expand their horizons with the tools of modern video display equipment, webinars, social media networking, and the realization of our own woodturning educational facility, the collective vision will travel far into the future as a living legacy for the community at large, and all club members past and present. An effort most noteworthy to be associated with!

**Averette Lidzy**

# Revolutions

## Webinar from front page

Dr. Robinson explained to us the basic life cycle of fungi. These organisms live and thrive in a microscopic life. Only after they have consumed all resources for food do they bud out into mushrooms or fruiting bodies as we might recognize them. This is important in the spalting of wood in that as the coloration increases, the quality of the wood decreases. Highly spalted wood will probably require some stabilization before the wood may be turned. Sara described picking up a piece of lab-spalted wood so soft she left her finger prints in its surface.

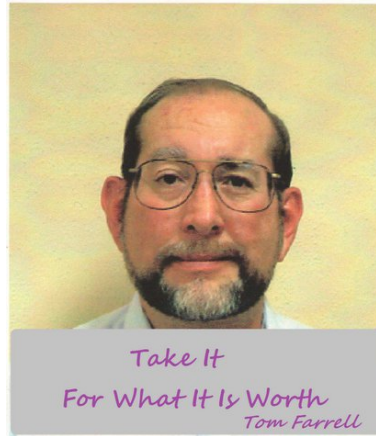


At left members watch as Robinson begins her webinar presentation. We used only our front screen for video, but ran audio through the speakers of the rear screen.

Sara, a woodturner, is in the process of developing fungi derived dyes. These dyes are produced by putting significant amounts of fungi into a proprietorial solvent which causes the color to drop into solution. She expects these dyes to be commercially available some time in the future.

In the mean time one may go into a forest to look for the fungi she uses. Apparently these are common where trees are common. Common names for the stained wood is called *green rot* and *white rot*. The alternative is to travel to Oregon to purchase cultures from Dr. Robinson. The ICC apparently blocks sale across state lines despite the international distribution of these fungi. The sample she currently sells in Oregon may be re-cultured on a simple media so that the purchase is a one-time deal.

One of Robinson's tips for spalting wood with the fungi is to place one's spalting box inside a building because the natural fungi both in soil and airborne may compete with the desired fungi ruining the wood.



Abbreviations are all around us and for some of us a part of everyday routine. As an example pertaining to woodturning, consider the roughing gouge. There is not enough information in "roughing gouge" to keep some of us out of trouble. In your shop, use a **spindle roughing gouge** for wood turned between centers where the grain runs parallel to the lathe bed. Don't try to use this

gouge on the inside or the outside of a bowl or other hollow vessel. Using any spindle gouge on any vessel is asking for a monumental catch. The bowl or vessel turner's gouge is a large bowl gouge. Bowl gouges are measured two ways, across the opening in the gouge and the size diameter of the HS steel rod used to make the gouge. You can use a bowl gouge on a spindle but it may not perform as well as a spindle gouge. Usually, vessels are turned with the grain oriented at a right angle to the lathe bed. Improve the performance and longevity of your tools by honing them between grindings. A diamond stone works well between grindings. Having two grits of stone is more beneficial. Use a 600 grit to refresh the edge. If the tool is very dull use a 300 – 320 grit stone to bring the edge back then hone with a 600 grit. Alan Lacer sells a diamond slip stone that is especially good. Check out his website at [Lacer Store](#).

If you are of a mind and like to read this rant in the newsletter, send me an email along with a subject you would like addressed. Or give me a call at 806-548-4621 with a subject.

If I do not receive any feed back, I'll assume this column has run its course and will end. Go make some chips and let them fall where they may.

## November Gallery



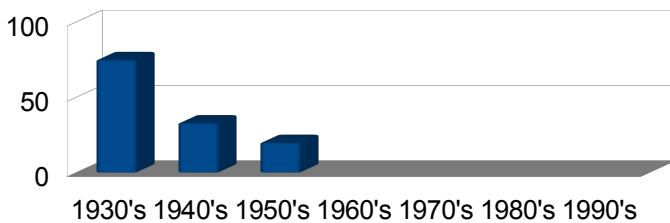
# Revolutions

## Club Survey

Concerned about woodturners reception of the webinar, **Revolutions** surveyed those present at the November meeting. The November meeting was well attended: fifty-six. This included six guests. Two people joined the club at the November meeting. It is unclear how the new members marked their survey as to membership because the survey forms were distributed prior to the start of the meeting. Our treasurer worked selling Christmas party tickets and enrolled the two new members after the webinar was conducted due to Dr. Robinson's schedule. One question on the survey asked if the webinar was easy or hard to understand. As the graph below illustrates, age of the respondent influenced their ease of understanding. Perhaps we should have asked how difficult our usual demonstrations are to understand for a comparison. Problems with hearing and vision seem an obvious conclusion. This should serve as a reminder to all speakers and demonstrators at club functions to be clear and seek an understanding of audience comprehension.

### Hard to Understand Webinar

By Decade of Birth



The survey also asked about AAW membership. While a mere 36% of our club are current AAW members, 49% of the club members in attendance were also AAW members. Put another way 71% of our AAW members attended the meeting. This suggests that AAW members have a greater investment in the club on the whole, supporting its primary *ritual*, the monthly meeting.

That the club should be promoting AAW membership was also strongly indicated by the questions about SWAT attendance. SWAT is where we are educated intensely about various techniques and applications of woodturning. It is in the club interest to promote SWAT attendance. Only 24% of the Non-AAW club members reported attending SWAT at least once. AAW member were twice as likely to attend SWAT, reporting 55% attendance. This is even more significant when one remembers that several of our AAW members have joined in only the past year.

Even though the club has no intention of replacing the regular demonstration with webinars, 51% of you said that you would remain members of the club if we did.

Future issues may report on your answers to the survey questions.

LOOK  
BACK

2009



After the show at LCU, courtesy of Michelle Kraft, the South Plains Woodturners' board tackled the problems involved in being able to display member's work in other venues. Through Glenn Williamson's leadership and several volunteers work, nested pedestals were constructed and Joe Williamson painted them.

Possession of these fine pedestals led to the question: how to store and transport them without getting them scuffed and damaged. The board discussed a trailer, agreeing this was the best way to store and move the pedestals to a show. Glenn searched want ads and sales lots, locating the fine trailer pictured here.

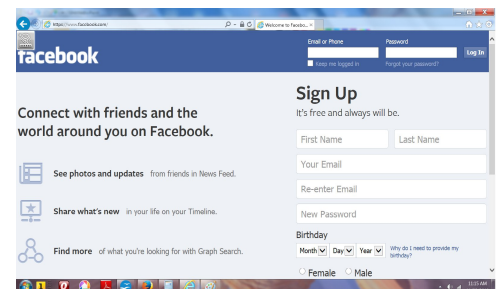
## Club On Facebook

The club now has a Facebook page. Many of us, fossilized old mossbacks from the Twentieth Century that we are do not used social media, nor know how to participate in the current Century. Here is how to join Facebook: Open the internet browser,



Type Facebook into either box where the green arrows point and press the return key.

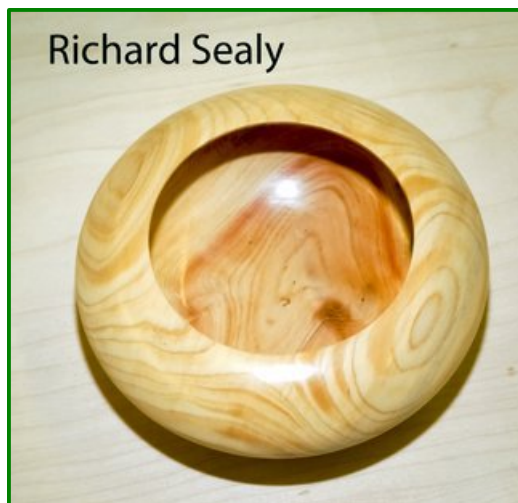
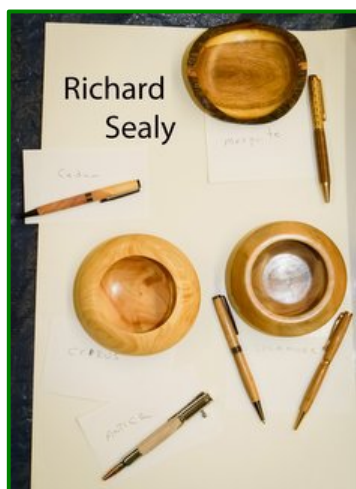
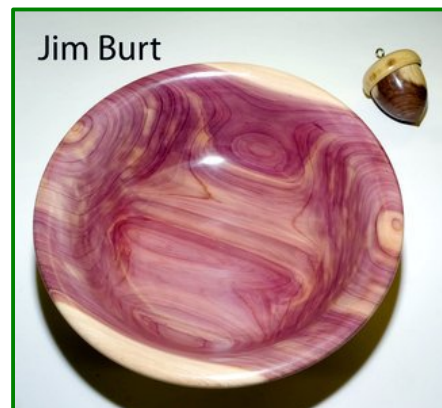
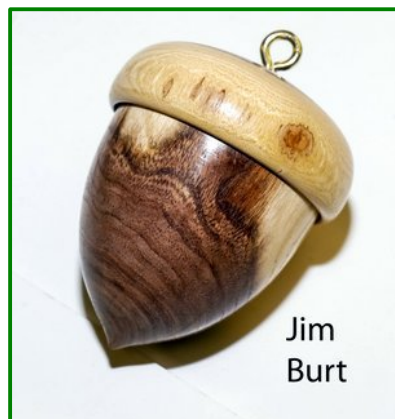
Fill in white boxes under *Sign Up*. Press the return key and you have arrived at 2013.



Enter *South Plains Woodturners, Inc* in the Facebook search bar. Enjoy.

# Revolutions

## Gallery Continued from page 4



## Janice Levi Coming Soon to a Demo Near You

At the February 1, 2014, club meeting Janice Levi of the Brazos Valley Club will present our demonstration: Pyrography. Janice will also teach a class in the afternoon after the meeting. The charge for the afternoon classes is \$30 per person. Janice asks all who attend the classes bring some type of wood burning tool. She says the wood burning tools available at Harbor Freight or some of the craft stores are more than adequate for the class. David Hoehns is making a list of those wishing to attend the class. Contact at [allskewedup@gmail.com](mailto:allskewedup@gmail.com) or 806 789 5108 to get on the list. There will be a limited number of seats available for the classes, so hurry to register.

# Revolutions

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Map to Locate Meetings