

# **Richmond Woodturners Newsletter January 2006**

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## **Next Meeting:**

February 16<sup>th</sup> @Woodcraft  
(always the third Thursday of every month)

**2006 Dues** – It is that time again. Please give Gene Milstead or Danny Luttrell \$25 for your annual dues. A check Payable to Richmond Woodturners is acceptable.

## **Announcements:**

**Library Needs:** The club library is in need of upgraded materials. Many of our tapes are older copies. If you have original Videos, DVD's, books, etc, please consider donating them to the club library. Please be cognizant of copyright laws.

## **Turning Challenge Schedule:**

**February:** Hollow Form & 4-H Turning Ideas  
**March:** Bowl coring, More 4-H Ideas & Open Turning  
**April:** Hollow Forms  
**May:** Multi-Axis Turning

## **Program Schedule:**

**February:** Barry Irby, Bowl Coring  
**March:** David Sterling, TBA  
**April:** Barbara Dill, Multi-Axis Turning  
**May:** Finials, Cindy Drozda

**Coming Soon:** The club is working on having a demonstration by Bob Rosand. Be on the lookout for details of this coming attraction. Check out his website at <http://www.rrosand.com/>. One of his ornaments can be viewed in the picture to the right. Can you tell which one is his? This ornament was won at one of our meetings.

## **New Members & Visitors:**

Please welcome new members Jerry Harvey, Vic Wenzlaff and Bill Jenkins.

## **January Meeting Notes:**

We ended the year with a party of friends and fellow turners alike. It is always fun to see the variety of turnings everyone is working on. The food and fellowship was enjoyed by all. Even in the fast pace of the holidays most find time to turn a few items.

We are off to a fresh start in 2006 with a few changes in our leadership as noted in the list of officers in the back of the newsletter. We are looking forward to many meetings and

demonstrations to increase our talents again this year.

The following gallery is a fine example of the work produced by our club. Every month new items are presented with a wide variety of artistic expression. This month was no exception. Our turnings are large, small, embellished, colored, carved, segmented, hollowed, natural, authentic, graceful, seasonal, useful, worn, beautiful, etc.

## **Notable Products:**

If you are looking for a quality bottle stopper try the stainless steel ones available from Ruth Niles at the following website: [www.torne-lignum.com/stoppers.html](http://www.torne-lignum.com/stoppers.html). Barry Irby has tried them and is quite pleased with their quality.

**Ray Deyo offers a 10% discount on non-power tools and supplies on meeting nights at Woodcraft for members only. Another very good reason to join!**

## **Website of the Month:**

[http://woodturningonline.com/Turning/Turning\\_projects.html](http://woodturningonline.com/Turning/Turning_projects.html)  
“Woodturning Online Project Plans”: The above link is to a sub-section of the web site. The section has a large list of on-line plans for Woodturners. The site is filled with How-To articles, plans, links, galleries, vendor lists, club data, etc. If you dare to visit this location be prepared to spend a few hours. It is a little addicting.

## **Build a Compression Chuck**



**End View**

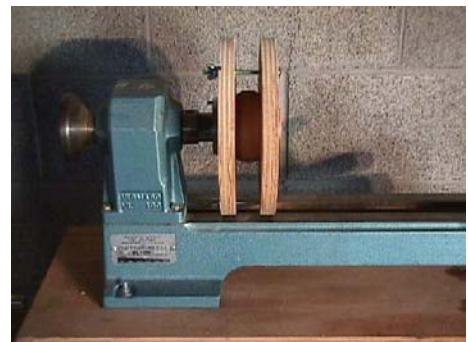
This is a simple jig made for finishing the bottoms of small vessels or bowls. I

hope this is helpful for all you bowl turners out there. The nice thing about this jig is that it can be made for pennies, assuming you have a faceplate, and most lathes come with at least one faceplate. This is a good use for a piece of equipment that usually gets stuffed in a drawer and forgotten.

The chuck compresses a bowl, plate, or other turning between two plywood disks with the outer disk having an access hole cut in the center. There are many improvements or modifications one can make to suit their own purposes.

The lathe pictured here is on a Vicmarc mini. There isn't a good way to reverse chuck a bowl on a mini lathe, at least not a way which is commercially available. Therefore a good homemade chuck easily fills the void. An added benefit to this chuck is that it is safe, in that if it is used properly, there is virtually no chance of the bowl coming loose and flying against the wall into a million pieces (or more than one piece anyway).

Note the view from the end of the chuck. You can see the bottom of the bowl sticking out through the access hole. This chuck is made from  $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood. For smaller bowls, a piece of  $\frac{1}{2}$ " ply would work fine. Don't skimp on the plywood and keep your speeds moderate.



**Side View**

**PLEASE NOTE THE ORIENTATION OF THE CARRIAGE BOLTS!**

The protruding wing nuts would make minced meat of your hands quickly if you made this thing backwards. The carriage bolt heads should be on the tailstock side with the wing nuts towards the headstock

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thus minimizing the protrusion on the face where you will be working.

Building the chuck is fairly straightforward. First, find a faceplate. Dedicating one to this jig is ensures you will not have centering problems when rechucking for subsequent bowl turning. Even if you can't dedicate one, there is enough slop in the system that if the chuck is a little out of round you have a little wiggle room or you may true it up quickly with a little turning before mounting.

Next, determine the maximum diameter your lathe will handle, and cut a series of plywood disks to just below the maximum diameter on a band saw or jigsaw. If you make your disks to large you will be making a trip back to the sander or band saw before you are able to mount them on your lathe.

Center the faceplate on one disk, and fasten it with screws. Sheet metal or good quality woodworking screws are the best. Avoid drywall screws. They are brittle and will snap if there is a catch of sufficient force. Mount the assembly on the lathe and true up the edge. If your faceplate is not true, you may want to make this base plate from solid wood so that you can true the face as well. A little out of round is not going to hurt, as most bowls are out of round by the time they get this far anyway.

After the first disk is running true, drill and bolt a second disk onto it. Again, PAY ATTENTION to where the bolts are sticking out. Use the shortest bolts you may find for this part. True up the edge of the second disk to match the first. Now you are ready to cut your doughnut hole.

Different sizes and shapes of bowls will require different sized holes, which is why you should make up three or four outer disks. Then you will have a supply ready for the turning which doesn't fit the current jig. Cut the hole using a parting tool. If you start out small, you can always make the hole a little bigger. Smaller is a lot harder to do. Radius the hole somewhat, forming a smooth landing to help protect and center your piece. The radius holds better with less impact on your newly sanded turning. Make sure the radius is

sloping IN and NOT OUT. In other words, you want a larger diameter inside the chuck and a smaller diameter on the outside. Don't worry if your parting tool scores the face of the inner disk.

Now you are ready to mount the bowl. With this style chuck, a little trial and error is in order. Center the bowl as best you can by eye and run the lathe. Unless you are very lucky, your turning probably is not running true. Stop the machine and adjust the bowl. Once you have it running to your satisfaction, you are ready to start cutting.

Tighten the carriage bolts down to make the bowl snug. You do not want to squash the thing to the point of breaking, but you do want the force to be as even as possible across the disk. This will help prevent the turning from slipping while cutting.

Cut away with the tool of your choice. Keep your hands and fingers away from the spinning bolts. Sand to the finish you desire, and you are done.

There are a few additional comments to be made. The jig can be padded on either or both disks with wax paper, rubber or cork. Thin router pads also work well for this. If you use a thick piece of solid wood for your base disk, you can taper it to aid in centering the bowl.

By keeping several lengths of bolts on hand, you can do different thicknesses of bowls with the same jig. Three bolts are sufficient for small short bowls. Use additional bolts for longer bowls. Make an index mark on the disks so they are mounted in the same place every time.

## ***What To do With Shavings A suggestion from an anonymous posters on the Internet:***

Whenever you turn a piece of wood of a strong color, such as ebony, pink ivory, pernambuco, bloodwood, etc., clean off the lathe and surrounding environs, then save the shavings in jars, like dry paint pigments. Use an old high-speed coffee grinder (like a small blender), and turn the shavings into a consistency of flour. For decoration, try turning a shallow ring recess in the piece on the lathe, then mix up a batch of epoxy and

your favorite colored wood flour. Over-fill the ring with the colored epoxy, and when hardened, turn back the excess and finish as desired. Success comes from sharp, clean edges of the recess. Let the shavings dry out for a few days and then crush them or chop them up. That helps keep the long fibers intact. Pack them tightly into the recess and then flood them with slow set superglue. Wait 3 minutes, then hit them with the accelerator - turn away the excess. The longer fibers lend a visual texture to the inlay, in addition to the color.

## **Officers for 2006**

President:	Jim Bumpas (804) 526-2873 <a href="mailto:Jimturnswood@yahoo.com">Jimturnswood@yahoo.com</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	Matt Baker
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:	Lee Scarbrough
Treasurer:	Gene Milstead (804) 932-9749
Librarian:	Dick Hines
Membership:	Danny Luttrell (804) 271-4799
Refreshments:	Harry Howell
Information Officer:	Don Dillon
Newsletter Editor:	Mike Lane (804) 932-5149 <a href="mailto:richmondwoodturner@cox.net">richmondwoodturner@cox.net</a>
Website:	<a href="http://www.richmondwoodturners.org">http://www.richmondwoodturners.org</a>

**Dues:** \$25 individual, \$35 family & \$15 student. Member applications are available upon request at meetings or via email.

**AAW Membership:** Dues are \$40 per year. For this, you receive 4 issues of "The American Woodturner" (a \$30+ value), a great resource directory (over 450 pages), a huge annual symposium, personal grant opportunities, third party liability protection, and much more. If you are the least bit serious about woodturning, you can't afford to miss out on all this.

**Library:** Contact the club librarian to borrow tapes and other publications related to woodturning, for only a modest deposit or donation to the club, if you like. A reference list of available material will be forthcoming in the near future.

**AAW:** The AAW Symposium is scheduled for JUNE 22-24, 2006 in Louisville, Kentucky. Put this date on your calendar and let's plan on having a large number or RAW's at the symposium! We need a member who will volunteer to formulate and plan a Collaborative item for the symposium. It would nice to take a piece representing many of the members of our club. If you have any ideas respond to the email or let one of the officers know. <http://www.woodturner.org/>