



## NEWSLETTER



### WOODTURNING DESIGN AND THOUGHTS ON JUDGING



JIM BUMPAS



DAN LUTTRELL

RAY DEYO

DAVE STERLING

Jim, Dan, Ray and Dave talked about some of the ways that woodturnings may be evaluated and the basics of good form. The judging process used for the annual woodturning competition was reviewed and each member of the panel presented things that they look for when they “evaluate/judge” a turning and how this is applied to the judging of the entries of the annual competition.

#### Jim Bumpas

Basics of good design can be learned and rules are by no means absolute but may be helpful at times. As you become more experienced and comfortable with your planning and design, you may choose to experiment with variations. A “good eye” comes from a lot of turning, trial and error and getting honest feedback from others. Most of us eventually find our own “voice”.

A video was shown discussing good design by Terry Scott of New Zealand.

## PROPORTIONS:

Pleasing proportions are important to good design and affect how we look at turnings. The two that are used the most are the golden mean and the rule of 3rds.

### THE GOLDEN MEAN

The golden mean is a ratio of length to width (smaller to larger) derived from the Fibonacci progression and is expressed by the ratio of 1: 1.61803...

Using the golden mean the largest diameter of a hollow form or bowl would be at exactly 0.61 (1/1.61803...) of the height.

### RULE OF 3RDS

You may have heard of “the rule of thirds” — this is it. Very simply put, if you have a feature such as a band or there is a maximum diameter, those features will make the piece more appealing if they are placed at about 1/3 or 2/3 of the height and the base is 1/3 of the widest diameter. Another simple approximation that I (and others) use is that the diameter of the foot or base of a bowl should be about one third of the widest outside diameter.

EASE OF TURNING IS AN ADDED BONUS. The flat-bottomed piece has a tight radius at the transition from side to bottom on the inside. the bowl with the simpler curve is much easier to turn.

### WHAT IS THE “RIGHT” CURVE?

Jim showed the catenary curve by holding up a piece of small chain in both hands. Curves like this, work with many forms, from flat bowls to those with steep sides. It can also be used for hollow form shapes. Turnings are typically more appealing when they approximate a catenary curve and when the curve is completed above the surface the turning is sitting on. Curves should be smooth with no bumps or flat spots. Transitions between different curves should be smooth and gradual. Pay close attention to detect even the most subtle changes. They may be magnified when the turning is viewed after being taken off the lathe.

### REFERENCES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.woodcentral.com/russ/russ2.shtml>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zeltDS3WIE4>

<https://www.craftsy.com/woodworking/article/woodturning-design/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9CiS3SU4Ik0>

Woodturning Design: using shape, proportion, and Decoration by - Derek Hayes. Taunton press

### Dan Luttrell

Dan opened his discussion with elements of a natural edge hollow form, which he produced in 2003. Features include a balanced natural edge top, proportional sap wood vs. heart wood at the neck, and diameter to height ratio. This piece won a blue ribbon in the annual competition the following year. (photo 1)

He then compared the piece to additional hollow forms, also produced by him, that he considers to have missed the mark (just plain ugly). One, with an uneven top edge and droopy shoulders, was produced in a hurry, with no regard to proper form. (photo 2) Another, from a nice piece of Cherry Burl, shows what can happen when one tries to maximize a form from a turning blank, without first considering the proper proportions for the final piece. (photo 3)

Dan briefly discussed his “Water Jar”, his entry in this quarter’s challenge; when thin wall turning may be appropriate, and that wall thickness should normally be proportional to the overall size of the turning. (photo 4)



PHOTO 1



PHOTO 2



PHOTO 3



PHOTO 4

## Ray Deyo

When judging the competition, Ray typically looks at ten points, however, the skill level being judged has a factor in the final evaluation. While Ray does not expect the same perfection from a less experienced turner, he does not look for an attempt. The ten points are:

- 1) The piece must stand alone and please the eye. First impressions count.
- 2) No surprises when the piece is picked up (weight, thickness, texture, sharp edges). One or more can be there, but appropriately so.
- 3) The bottom is a side – it needs the same attention as anywhere else on the piece (finishing, sanding, form, tool marks, etc.).
- 4) End grain is face grain. It needs to be just as smooth, blemish free and finished without tear out.
- 5) No straight lines (tools, sanding marks, finish application). Mother Nature cannot make straight lines.
- 6) Thickness needs to be consistent and complement the form. A thin popcorn bowl is just as bad as a thick side salad bowl.
- 7) Finish is blemish free. We sand a piece to perfection before moving on to the last step. It's the same with applying finish. Once it's perfect (regardless of number of applications), then it's time to apply the final coat. Just as perfect sanding creates a base for the finish, so, too, can finish create a base for perfect finish.
- 8) Hollow form is reversible. If just as pleasing upside down, the shape is perfect.
- 9) Embellishments complement the piece and are tastefully done. If it doesn't make sense, it shouldn't be there. A crack is a crack no matter what it's filled with.
- 10) Colors must make sense. Blotchiness, inconsistent application, or conflicting colors (including with the wood itself) can be a detraction.

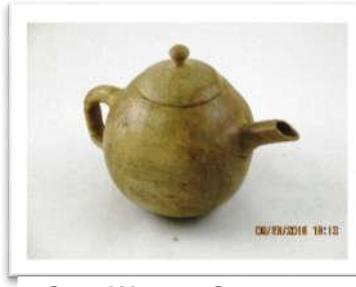
If you think about it, we all look at the same ten points. The only difference here is... they are written down!

The demonstration during our next meeting (Thursday, Oct 18<sup>th</sup> ) is “Hollow Globe Ornament With Icicle” with Alan Leland. A handout for this is available at [https://richmondwoodturners.org/pdf/handouts/hollow\\_globe\\_ornament.pdf](https://richmondwoodturners.org/pdf/handouts/hollow_globe_ornament.pdf). For those of us who are not so experienced in this sort or project may find it helpful to read this handout before the meeting. At least I feel so (Editor)!

## QUARTERLY CHALLENGE



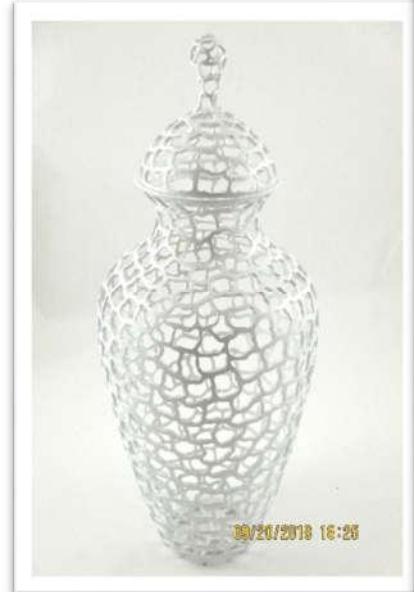
BRUCE ROBBINS, HOLLY, 5 x 13



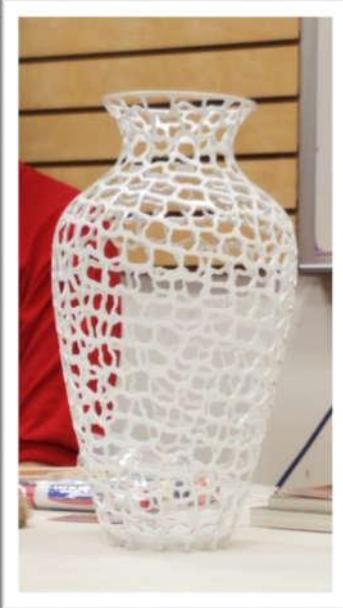
CODY WALKER, Sycamore,  
Shellac & Wax, 5½ x 7½



09/20/2018  
BILL BUCHANAN, UNIDENTIFIED  
Wood, Danish Oil, 4½ x 4½



10/20/2018 16:26  
DAN LUTTRELL, MAPLE, PAINT, 11" HIGH



JIM BUMPAS, SPALTED HOLLY, SPRAY  
LACQUER, 23"H x 11"DIA



RAY DEYO, HOLLY, URETHANE,  
7 x 15½, BLENDED/BLEACHED??



ANDY HAMMER, AMBROSIA MAPLE, OIL,  
14½ x 10½, PARTIALLY SPALTED



STEVE KELLER, WALNUT, SANDING  
SEALER/CARNAUBA WAX, 10 x 6,  
LEARNING HOLLOW FORM

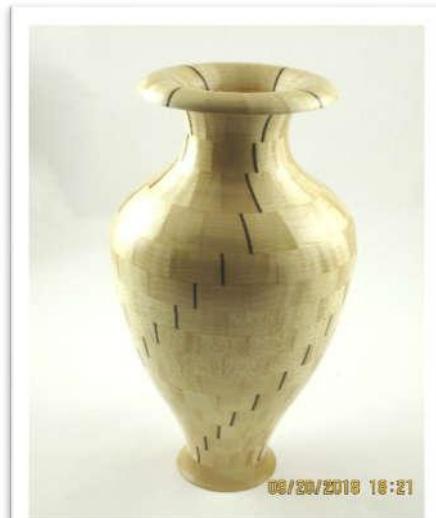


09/20/2018 18:17

CHUCK MOSSER, AMBROSIA  
MAPLE, LACQUER, GLASS FINIAL BY  
LISA MOSSER



STEVE SCHWARTZ, AMBROSIA  
MAPLE, POLY, 6 x 6



BOB SILKENSEN, MAPLE, POLY, 6 x 12,  
SEGMENTED VASE



**BRAD MILLER, OAK, SHELLAC & OILED LINSEED OIL,  
3 x 12½**



**DICK HINES, POPLAR ROOT  
BURL, WATCO, 3 x 6**



**ROBERT GUNDEL, SPALTED MAPLE, DANISH  
OIL BUFFED & WAXED, 5 X 12½**



**CALEN RICE, PLUM & WALNUT,  
CARNAUBA, 8"**



**DICK HINES, WALNUT BURL,  
WATCO, 8 x 12**

## SHOW AND TELL



TIM WARREN, MAPLE & EBONY, LACQUER, 2 X 2, 6 PIECES



STEVE SCHWARTZ, Sycamore, Poly, 10 x 3, COSMIC CLOUD PAINTED RIM  
09/20/2018 1



09/20/2018 18:21

BOB SILKENSEN, ASH, SPRAY LACQUER, 11½ x 1¾,  
BASKET ILLUSION



JIM PARKER, SPALTED MAPLE, TUNG OIL VARNISH, 27 x 16 x 5, WINGED BOWL



09/20/2018

*ROYAL WOOD, BLACK CHERRY, PAINTED, 10 x 4*



09/20/2018 10:23

*CHUCK MOSSER, ASH, SHELLAC SEALER,  
MADE AT AUG DEMO, NEEDS FINAL FINISH*



09/20/2018

*PHIL DUFFY, RED MAPLE, VARNISH, 9 x 3, TEST PIECE*



09/20/2018

*GEORGIA WOOD, WALNUT, WALNUT OIL, 7 x 2*



09/20/2018 18:16

ALLEN HARRELL, MAPLE, NATURAL, 8 x 3½



09/20/2018 18:47

JOHN MATHEWS, DOGWOOD, DANISH OIL, 4½ x 11



09/20/2018 18:46

JOHN MATTHEWS, CRAPE MYRTLE, NO FINISH,  
5 x 4½

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

This time of year is usually the most fun for me as a turner, particularly due to our participation in the State Fair and Makerfest. As much as I like the turning part, I enjoy even more talking to the passersby about our craft. Although I could have sold a few of my not for sale display pieces several times, personally I got more joy when a mom asked how much for the tops we were making. My typical answer is a smile and the normal response is more than enough compensation for any effort I put forth. Throughout the course of the days, we met a few turners and a few that turned in high school, but mostly admirers who liked the look or feel of the display pieces. I'm in the camp of please pick up and touch and always enjoy coming up with a response to "How did you do that?" or "ooh that's smooth". A big thank you to all the members who came out to demonstrate or just talk to the visitors. If you missed this year, please consider volunteering next year at these or other events. It's a great way to improve your skills.

As we enter the final quarter of the year, I also am looking forward to our next club meetings. For the first time in several years we are bringing in a couple of world class turners for our demonstrations. While we have quite a few excellent craftspeople as club members, this should give us a little change of pace. Alan Leland will be here in October turning ornaments and for November we will get a chance to try out the remote interactive demonstration capabilities of our new audio/visual system with Trent Bosch demonstrating from Colorado. Trent will even be sending in some demo pieces to pass around. The expectation is that it can be even better than on site. I'll even volunteer to sweep up the shavings that week. If the remote capability is well received, this will open up other opportunities to see some turners we otherwise might not be able to schedule and certainly reduce the cost as no travel is involved.

December, not that far away, will be our annual holiday party. All spouses and partners are invited to attend. The club will be providing some food, while members will bring appetizers, sides and desserts. It is also the time for our 4th quarter challenge and our traditional Chinese gift exchange, so start making those tools for the challenge and small turnings for the swap. It's always a fun party and a good time to meet or reunite with families.

Happy and safe turning,

Bruce

## STATE FAIR - FRIDAY SEPT 28 – FRI OCT 5

Demonstrators: Bill Buchanan, Chuck Bajnai, Lee Scarbrough, Jim Bumpas, Dan Luttrell, Jim O'Hanlon, Christian Vieweg, Herb Walke, Rob Blader, Robert Gundel, Bruce Robbins, Matt Baker, Ron Bishop, Jim Ellis, Michael Hyland, Terry Moore, Ann Moore, Ray Melton, Ray Deyo, Georgia Wood, Royal Wood,





## MAKERFEST – SATURDAY OCT 6





Makerfest demonstrators: Dan Luttrell, Jim Bumpas, Jim O'Hanlon, Lee Scarbrough, Bill Buchanan, Bill Walters, Barbara Dill and Ray Deyo

## MEETING NOTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2018

Bruce opened the meeting at 6:30 and discussed the following topics:

Announced upcoming events:

- State Fair - Friday Sept 28 – Fri Oct 5
- Makerfest – Sat October 6
- Mid Atlantic Woodturning Symposium – Sept 28-30
- Segmented Woodturning Symposium – Oct 12-14
- Virginia Woodturning Symposium – Nov 3-4
- October Club Demo - Alan Leland
- November Club Demo - Trent Bosch
- December 4 Qtr. Challenge & Christmas Party
- August 2019 club Demo - Avelino Samuel

New list of Challenges – see below

## Richmond Cultural Arts Calendar

Our club meeting and events can now be incorporated into the Richmond Cultural Arts Calendar which is a community-based organization that supports local arts organizations and individuals by highlighting events, performances, etc. Our current page can be accessed at the following link:

[http://calendar.richmondcultureworks.org/event/richmond\\_woodturners\\_monthly\\_meeting](http://calendar.richmondcultureworks.org/event/richmond_woodturners_monthly_meeting)

Would you like to order a Richmond Woodturners name tag?, See Lee Scarbrough!

From Ray Melton

Please be reminded that this meeting is the last meeting to bring in tops.

## UPCOMING DEMONSTRATIONS

October – Alan Leland – How to Turn Outstanding Ornaments.

November Trent Bosch – Hollowing Vessels and Vessels of Illusion. (Remote live demo).

Board Elections – voting to be held prior to demo.

December 4 Qtr. Challenge & Christmas Party

August 2019 - Avelino Samuel: Avelino Samuel – Spiral Vessels. On the two days following the club demo, classes with Avelino will be offered for a fee.

Visitors

Steve Reilly  
Scottsville

New Members

John Matthews  
Richmond

Returning Members



**SAVE THE DATE!!**

**Virginia Woodturning Symposium 2018**

**November 3 & 4, 2018**

**Expoland - Fishersville, VA**

Mark your calendars to reserve the dates for the Virginia Woodturning Symposium!

There will be 41 rotations held at 7 different stations covering a number of turning techniques during this exciting 2-day event! This is an awesome opportunity to enhance your knowledge base!

**Some of the demo topics include-**

Fabulous Finials, Pen Making Start to Finish, Fun with Spheres, The Airbrush Demystified, Natural Edge Winged Bowl, Basic Bowls, Techniques for Deep Vessels, and many other fantastic sessions!

**The following demonstrators are on the schedule:**

Cindy Drozda	Rudy Lopez	Donna Banfield
Nick Cook	Barry Gross	Frank Penta
Graeme Priddle	Mark St. Ledger	Lyle Jamieson
Joe Fleming	Dick Hines	Fred Williamson
Mike Sorge		

The symposium is a great place to meet woodturners from other clubs, learn new skills, and talk with vendors about your tool and supply needs! There are also opportunities to work on your techniques with experts at the Skills Center, and an Instant Gallery where you can view or display turnings!

If you pre-register before October 26, 2018, the price is only \$80 for the weekend!

Check us out for details on the web at: <http://www.virginiawoodturners.com>  
Stay tuned for more details in the months to come and **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!**

**We look forward to seeing you in November!**

## October Snacks & Drinks

PHIL DUFFY..... 2 LITER OF COKE  
RALPH LUTZ..... 2 LITER OF PEPSI  
RAY DEYO..... 2 LITER OF DIET COKE  
RICHARD CROOK..... 2 LITER CAFF FREE SODA  
ROB BLADER..... COOKIES  
ROBERT GUNDEL..... CHIPS  
ROBERT HOPEWELL....SALTY SNACK  
ROBERT MARCHESE....SALTY SNACK  
RON BISHOP..... SWEET SNACK  
GEORGIA WOOD.....ICE/COOLER

You can switch with someone if you are unable to bring those items for the month assigned.

## Richmond Woodturners Quarterly Challenge

The Challenge are regularly scheduled for the third month of each quarter (March, June, September, and December). Entries will be placed on a table separate from the Show-n-Tell table.

4th Quarter 2018 – Tool

1st Quarter 2019 – Jig

2nd Quarter 2019 – Turned and Embellished

3rd Quarter 2019 – Tops

4th Quarter 2019 – Something with feet or handle

## Financial Report

The new balance is 7,204.33, changes in the budget are associated with the purchase of a new presenters' television and a donation to AAW's women in turning (WIT) program made in honor of Betsy Mack.

## Committee Chairpersons

Social Media                    Charlie Hamilton

Audio/Video                  Jared Parker

Turning Competition   Jim O'Hanlon

## For sale or trade

If you have any items to list in the For Sale or Trade Section, please email me at [forsale@richmondwoodturners.org](mailto:forsale@richmondwoodturners.org).

Please remember that each item needs a description, price, city, seller's name and contact info (phone/email).

You can include pictures if you like. They will run 1 month unless notified to "re-run".

## Club Officers

President: Bruce Robbins  
Vice President: Jim Bumpas  
Secretary: John Anderson  
Treasurer: Cody Walker

### Directors

Activities Director: Georgia Wood  
Resource Director: Chuck Bajnai  
Information Director: Stan VanDruff  
Membership Director: Dan Luttrell  
Newsletter Editor: Bob Marchese  
Past President: Lee Scarborough  
Past President: Ray Deyo

## Meeting Schedule

October	10/18/2018	April	4/18/2019
November	11/15/2018	May	5/16/2019
December	12/20/2018	June	6/20/2019
January	1/17/2019	July	7/18/2019
February	2/21/2019	August	8/15/2019
March	3/21/2019	September	9/19/2019



Contact the store at: [804-355-3945](tel:804-355-3945)

Fax: 804-355-2532

Email: [richmond-retail@woodcraft.com](mailto:richmond-retail@woodcraft.com)

9862 West Broad Street  
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Organizations such as the Richmond Woodturners, Penturners and carving clubs would not exist if it weren't for the kindness of their sponsors. We are blessed and grateful to have the Richmond Virginia Woodcraft store supporting us and our activities.

Please remember this and support them at every opportunity!

For the classes provided at this location see: <https://www.woodcraft.com/stores/richmond/classes>

Look for classes taught by Ray Deyo, Clark Brummett, David Sterling, Brian Noble-Marx and others

## Free Wood

I saw the Woodturners booth at Makerfest yesterday and one of the members told me to contact you about this.

I have some wood in my yard from trees that were cut down a month ago – a 70-year-old pear tree and 20-year-old cherry tree.

Pictures below. If anyone in the club might be interested in using this wood, please contact me. It's free, but I don't want to leave them in the yard much longer. I live near Richmond Raceway off of Laburnum Ave. 804-329-1967 phone - [imonthenet@comcast.net](mailto:imonthenet@comcast.net) email.

Thanks, Rita McKnight



