

# The Nutmeg

Newsletter of the Nutmeg Woodturners League  
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[www.nutmegwoodturners.com](http://www.nutmegwoodturners.com)

## NEXT MEETING

Membership meeting – Monday, March 12, 2007

**PROGRAM:** Steve Sherman will demonstrate turning a designer birdhouse and much more. *See the article on Page 2.*

Brookfield Craft Center  
Route 25, Brookfield, CT

6 to 7 P.M. – Informal Gathering, Library Open

7:00 P.M. – Club Business

7:30 P.M. – Program

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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

First I would like to give a big *Thank You* to all of the club members that helped with the rough turning for *Bowl Fest*. We turned over 100 bowls. I must say we did have about a dozen that didn't make it overnight but that's to be expected.

Final turning for the *Bowl Fest* bowls will be held on the weekend of May 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. We will also have some weekday and evening sessions. The dates will be announced later.

It's time to start working on a bowl to bring to the May meeting for a chance to win a David Ellsworth gouge. Members will receive a raffle ticket for each bowl they donate to the Brookfield Craft center for *Bowl Fest*.

I heard through the grapevine that the *Learn & Turn* hosted by Peter Marshall was a great success. Thank you Peter!

If you would like to host a *Learn & Turn* please see Bill Oakley.

*Keep a sharp edge!*  
*Buster*

## COMING EVENTS

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### BROOKFIELD CRAFT CENTER

203-775-4526

<i>Hollow Turning</i>	March 10 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Beth Ireland</i>
<i>Bowl Turning Revisited</i>	March 17 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Jim Degen</i>
<i>Turn a Rolling Pin</i>	March 24 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Buster Shaw</i>
<i>Spindle Turning</i>	March 31 <sup>st</sup> and April 1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Keith Tomkins</i>

### MARCH DEMO

Steve Sherman will be our March demonstrator. The demonstration will cover:

- Turning a designer birdhouse for interior wall hanging to enhance plants and indoor gardens.
- Skills with tools used for spindle work and fine finials for hollow.
- Surface decoration and color enhancement of your work will be discussed.
- And, if there is time, the secret for a quick barley twist as used on finials.

### RAFFLE

I received six \$10.00 merchandise certificates from CRAFT SUPPLIES USA for the March meeting. Please remember them the next time you need to place an order.

Please bring in something to contribute to the raffle.

*Buster*

## Library Notes

One of the many benefits of our woodturning club is the library of turning and related tapes, DVD's and books. Available to all **paid** members, this body of material is a valuable source of information to enhance our enjoyment of turning. Unfortunately over time some items have been *lost* and others just plain worn out. In addition, technology has improved and DVD's have all but replaced tapes for the videos.

Last year Dick Hoblitzell took on the library responsibility and has inventoried and reorganized the content as well as listed it on our website. As a result of this activity the board recognized the need to update and expand the library's content. To that end we've purchased 13 new DVD's and a tape, and are reviewing several books to add to the growing list. The intent of this column is to highlight a few of the recent additions.

One of the rising stars of the professional turners - demonstrators is Jimmy Clewes from the UK. We have the three DVD set called *Turn It On* and I would be hard put to find a better set of demo DVD's. Each of the three has the same format and covers two turning projects and two extra features. The three DVD's are standalones. The first covers a bowl and lidded rectangular box with gold leaf and one of the features covers his method of sharpening. The second DVD demos a flat bowl with a brass powder inlay and a thin stem goblet. DVD 3 is a lidded box and a flat bowl with silver rod inserts. One of the extra features includes a 2000-year-old Roman dig site in the UK where they found woodturnings including lidded boxes. Others include chain saw safety, lid fitting methods and how the demos were produced. On this last note you will learn what it takes to make a really great demo DVD.

Of lesser quality, but still interesting, is a DVD by Cindy Drozda on how she turns finials. Cindy is well known for her dramatic raised boxes with ornate finials. A weak start on this DVD soon switched to some very good camera shots on turning the finials as well as how she sharpens her tools. Close ups were not focused as well as they could have been; but if fancy lids are your thing give this a look.

Of general interest is a series of DVD interviews with noted turners presenting their ideas on what they do and how they developed their turning statements. I think we all could benefit from a little more thought about our **vision** as a turner. We might not strive to become a noted leading edge turner, but we could find a little more enjoyment of other's work and maybe push ourselves at the same time if we understand the process others have gone through.

The series is called *Beyond Wood* and covers **why** more than **how**. We have 6 DVD's of the series and they feature Rude Osolnik, Christian Burchard, Hans Weissflog, Gianfanco Angelino, Ron Kent and Ray Allen.

Next time I will review the Neil Scobie DVD's that demo his Erosion Bowl, Wave Rim Bowl and Tree Platter. For those who have more time than sense I will also review David Springetts Woodturning Wizardry tape. The three projects covered are Lattice Pomander, Star in a Cube and Chinese Balls.

Keep Turning!

*Allen Nemetz*

## A Great Little Lathe for \$255

I recently purchased a Turncrafter TCLPROVS mini lathe from Penn State Industries ([www.pennstateind.com](http://www.pennstateind.com)). It is a good little mini lathe. I am very happy with it. I recommend the TCLPROVS to anyone looking for a first lathe or demo lathe. I like it better than the Jet and Delta mini lathes I have used, probably because the TCLPROVS is variable speed for only \$255. The variable speed versions of other mini lathes are in the \$350 range. My Wednesday night turning group also likes the TCLPROVS.

Here is what I like about the Turncrafter TCLPROVS

- Variable Speed: 650 to 3800 RPM. It also has 3 belt positions for better torque.
- Motor: 1/2 HP DC motor, so I can add my own reverse switch
- Headstock: 1" x 8tpi, #2MT
- Tailstock: #2MT
- Distance between centers: 18"
- Swing over bed: 10"
- Variable speed control box can be mounted under the lathe where it is less likely to get broken in transit.



If a mini lathe is going to be your first lathe then the #2MT on the TCLPROVS will make it easier to reuse accessories in the future on a larger lathe.

I already own 2 large lathes. A modern Delta 1642 steel-bed lathe and VB36 bowl turning lathe. I purchased the TCLPROVS for demos, vacations, and Wednesday nights. I was drawn to the TCLPROVS by 2 major factors. The #2MT headstock and tailstock tapers allow me to reuse the drive and live centers from my big lathes. The DC motor would allow me to easily install my own reverse switch. You just have to reverse the input leads to a DC motor to reverse the motor with no loss of torque. I like to turn in reverse when turning small hollow vases. Some mini lathes only come with a 3/4" x 16tpi, #1MT headstock. The 1" x 8tpi on TCLPROVS is more reasonable. 1 1/4" x 8tpi to match my big lathes would be nice, but over-kill. I can reuse my Nova 4 jaw chuck by just purchasing 1" x 8tpi Nova spindle insert.

I have turned several spindles, on the TCLPROVS. It is a good spindle turning lathe. I have also turned a small vase and bowls out of dry wood. The TCLPROVS was ok on the small vase. Vases are tall and thin so roughing it was like doing a spindle. It had plenty of torque for the hollowing of the vase using Ellsworth style tools. Turning a bowl was more challenging but ok. All mini lathes don't handle out of balance bowl blanks very well. The lathes simply are not heavy enough. The TCLPROVS was better than the Jet and Delta mini lathes I have used. Primarily, because I could use the variable speed to start out slow. I easily turned a nice little bowl on TCLPROVS after I got the blank round and balanced.

Here is what I don't like about the TCLPROVS: (All mini lathes may suffer from similar shortcomings.)

- I easily broke the cheap plastic locking handle on the tailstock. I simply replaced tailstock and banjo handles with nice 8mm die cast zinc handles from [www.mcmaster.com](http://www.mcmaster.com) part #6848K44.

- the tool rest is a joke as it is too short. Fortunately, Penn State Industries also sells a nice 3-piece set of 5/8" Solid Bar Tool-rests for only \$30. Part #CLTSET58.
- a small cheap 4-prong center comes with the lathe. I recommend replacing it with a Safe or Steb drive center. I have and like the cheap Super Drive Centers (aka Steb Centers) sold by Penn State Industries, part #LCENTSS21 for #2MT 5/8" Drive Crown/Step Center for only \$20.
- the live center that comes with lathe is OK, but not impressive. The 7/8" diameter cup is kind of big for small work. Unfortunately the 1/2" Revolving Crown/Step Live Center for \$36 from Penn State Industries part # LCENTTS1 is only a #1MT. So you have to purchase a #1MT to #2MT adapter for \$8 from [www.mcmaster.com](http://www.mcmaster.com) part #2976A21. Or go with Penn State's 3/4" #2MT version, part #LCENTTS2.

I prefer faceplates rather than chucks. The TCLPROVS comes with an OK faceplate. When people insist on chucks, I recommend the Oneway Stronghold chuck rather than the Nova chuck I have. For a mini lathe the Barracuda2 Key Chuck from Penn State Industries part #CSC3000C for only \$170 looks like a good deal because it comes with 4 sets of jaws. I do not have one. Beware; it's too small for use on bigger lathes.

The Turncrafter TCLPROVS is a great little lathe for \$305. Lathe \$255 + better tool rest set \$30 + better drive center \$20 = \$305.

*Carl Ford*

Please note: I have owned the belt version of this lathe for about 2 years. I bought it as a my primary lathe until I get enough money and space for a Nova DVR. I primarily make smaller stuff so it fits my needs perfectly, but I've made 8" bowls with no real problem.

Penn State just came out with a variable speed conversion kit (\$155) for this unit (and Jet / Delta) which I just orderd.

Dick Hobtizell