

# The Nutmeg

*Newsletter of the Nutmeg  
Woodturners League  
Established June 14, 1989*



Volume 24, No. 2    March, 2011

[www.nutmegwoodturners.com](http://www.nutmegwoodturners.com)

## **NEXT MEETING**

Monday, March 14, 2011

Program: Metal Spinning

By: Carl Ford and Ken Rist

Brookfield Craft Center

Route 25, Brookfield, CT

6 to 7 pm – Informal Gathering, Library Open

7:00 pm – Club Business

7:30 pm – Program

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# PRESIDENTS PAGE MARCH 2011

## 1. **LEARN & TURN**

- a. A Great time was had by all at Carl Ford's on Feb 19<sup>th</sup>. As we finish turned some Bird House Ornaments.
- b. Want to host a Learn & Turn in April? Please see Joe Maiorano our new Learn & Turn coordinator

## 2. **FINISH BOWL TURNING**

- a. We will be finish turning some bowls for the Craft Center every Tuesday and Thursday during March beginning at 10:00 am and going till ?
- b. This is a great way to learn how to do twice turn bowls.

## 3. **JIMMY CLEWES IS COMING TO BCC**

- a. We are pleased to welcome legendary woodturner Jimmy Clewes to our turning studio for a full-day demo on May 7th. Jimmy will share his outstanding (and highly entertaining) techniques with fellow turning enthusiasts, and allow them to get an up-close look at his bag of tricks on the lathe. Lunch is included during a mid-day break. Space is limited to 25 participants for this unique experience.

## 4. **DEMO**

- a. **Ford and Ken RCarlist – Metal Spinning**
- b. The spinning process is fairly simple. A formed block is mounted in the drive section of a lathe. A pre-sized metal disk is then clamped against the block by a pressure pad, which is attached to the [tailstock](#). The block and work piece are then rotated together at high speeds. A localized force is then applied to the work piece to cause it to flow over the block. The force is usually applied via various levered tools. Simple work pieces are just removed from the block, but more complex shapes may require a multi-piece block.

Please bring in something for the raffle and don't forget about the "Show & Tell"

**KEEP A SHARP EDGE**

**BUSTER**

## **Jimmy Clewes is not your ordinary woodturner.**

**Upon a first meeting, one would think of him as a renegade, a free thinker, and not within the stereotypical image of a woodturner. His charming British style, unending wit, creative mind, and magnetic personality are only some of the attributes that make him popular in the woodturning demonstration circuit.**



Jimmy is on the Register of Professional Woodturners in the United Kingdom and a member of the American Association of Woodturners. He has over 22 years of experience in woodturning and woodworking. The demand for his services as a freelance demonstrator and teacher has taken him all over the world including his homeland of the United Kingdom, Europe, Canada, Norway, Finland, New Zealand and now his new home in the United States.

It was not long after leaving school at the age of 16, Jimmy attained an apprenticeship in engineering and decided to further his studies by attending Manchester Polytechnic. He received a 2:1 Honours Degrees with special emphasis on learning 3-Dimensional Design. With that focus, he began to specialize in designing and making furniture which was influenced by Japanese tools and design.

It was during his time in college that his interest in woodturning was rekindled. The combination of his college education, his limitless imagination and his professional skills was a perfect fit for Jimmy to pursue his creative abilities as a woodturner and to take that ability to the next level.

When asked what drives him, he shares, “My energy comes from those around me. When I can stir the creativity of one’s mind, that for me is very satisfying. As with any artform, expression is only limited as one’s mind and I want to ‘raise the bar’ and create an awareness of the artform that has been virtually unknown to most people.”

As an avid sportsman and adventurer, when he is not busy teaching and demonstrating, you will find him expanding his creativity by exploring nature and enjoying the beauty of the desert. Or you might find Jimmy in his new workshop in Las Vegas creating innovative woodturning designs.

Jimmy is the first to acknowledge that personal tutelage is by far the best way to learn. However, since that is not always possible, in 2003 he produced the critically acclaimed DVD **Turnaround with Jimmy Clewes** which sold thousands of copies around the world. In 2005 he released a 3-box set DVD **Turn it On with Jimmy Clewes** that incorporates a range of new projects and some fascinating extra features from technical tips to a special trip to a Roman museum. In 2006, a 3-box set, **Turn it Up** was released. Soon to be released this year, a **new box set**, filmed in High Definition Widescreen, will include projects filmed on location in Norway, Scotland and the United States.

## **Black Cherry**

### **Uses:**

In cabinetmaking, cherry is rated one of the favorites because of its beauty and versatility, it has warmth, personality and charm. As a craftwood it cuts, stains and sands beautifully, which makes it a hobby wood of choice.

American black cherry is widely used for paneling and as a veneer, burial caskets and other specialty items such as gunstocks, tobacco pipes, musical instruments, turnery, carvings, etc. It is only moderately durable for outdoor projects. Cherry wood is my personal favorite, of all the domestic wood species.

### **The Tree: Prunus Serotina Family**

Black cherry stands alone for its commercial value as a lumber wood. Other cherry trees most often function as decorative trees or fruit bearers. Black cherry is characterized by late maturing fruit and is distinct from the other cherries because it has dark bark with irregular scales that peel off easily and a light to dark reddish brown heartwood.

The fruit of this tree is small and purple colored with a bitter taste and is used to flavor jelly and beverages. At one point it was used to make very potent liquor. American colonists used the bark as a drug to treat bronchitis and cherry stalks were used to make tonics. It grows predominately in east-central North America, with smaller shorter trees more common in southern eastern Canada.

### **Wood Description:**

Cherry has pale yellowish sapwood and darker heartwood. The wood's color deepens to its characteristic reddish brown, almost mahogany-like color when exposed to the sun. The sapwood never darkens to the same color of the heartwood. Cherry often shows a waving curly figure when finished. Heartwood can have dark spots or fine black lines that are actually gum pockets that pose added challenges in finishing.

The tangential shrinkage can be twice the radial shrinkage making warping a problem if drying is hurried. Once cherry has been dried properly, though, it is a relatively stable wood. It is as strong as maple but only about 2/3rds as hard. Often maple is stained to look like cherry in furniture components that require a more dense wood.

**Weight: 35 lbs. Per cubic foot.**

**Finishing:**

The grain pattern welcomes a full range of medium to dark finishes and bleaching treatments. The best way to achieve a uniform deep red color is to let mother nature do her work rather than attempt staining. If you have to replace a board, remember in time, the sunlight will darken all cherry, even if it doesn't look like it matches in the beginning. It has been suggested by some of my customers that aniline dyes work particularly well on cherry, but I have no experience in this area. Scratches show up easily on cherry so pay attention to your sanding preparation.

**Machining:**

Wood is uniform in texture and machines well with normal wear on your tools. It's tight fine grain routes well but does have a tendency to burn, so stick with carbide bits and don't stop the router on the wood. Watch the feed direction when jointing, particularly on boards that show a nice curl. Likewise when thickness planning, keep your passes to less than a 1/16" and always pay attention to the feed direction. If tear out occurs, you can always reverse the direction. Obviously you don't want to be experimenting on the last pass. Cherry turns beautifully, but you must sand with the grain to eliminate the cross grain marks.