



WEST TENNESSEE WOODTURNERS



NEWSLETTER

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AL STABLES DEMONSTRATION



One of our own club members, Al Stables, did an outstanding demonstration at the May meeting. Turning a spinning top sounds simple enough, but Al used this demonstration as a vehicle for discussing several aspects of woodturning, including wood selection, chucking, texturing, chatter tool usage, general safety considerations and even a bit of wood coloring.

Al has several years of woodturning experience and has been a member of our club since the beginning. He and his wife, Gail, have attended John C. Campbell Folk School a number of times. Al has entered some beautiful bowls and other items in our Instant Gallery.

In connection with his former human resource management position Al was involved with safety issues and has a very high level of concern about safety. His advice on the subject is quite pertinent to woodturning and he takes a practical approach that anyone can implement.

One of several points he made was the need to have a first aid kit handy in the shop. Unfortunately he performed a live demonstration of this by accidentally inflicting a minor cut on his hand when the first piece he was turning broke and went into flight.



NORM FOWLER WILL DEMONSTRATE IN JUNE

Norm Fowler will be the demonstrator at our meeting June 12. If you saw him in April, you already know that Norm is an outstanding demonstrator with a lot of valuable woodturning tips that he readily shares with his audience. If you missed his demo in April, you get a second chance. At this demo he will be making a lidded box.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE JUNE 1

The club dues are currently set at \$25 per year and due June 1 each year. Anyone joining after January 1 of a given year will only be expected to pay half a year (\$12.50). If you joined after January 1, 2010, and paid the full \$25 please remind Bill Smith and you will only owe \$12.50.

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OFFICERS:

- *President:*
Bob Hobbs
- *Vice President:*
Kirk Smith
- *Secretary:*
Chuck Jones
- *Treasurer:*
Bill Smith
- *Librarian:*
Bill Wyche

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West Tennessee Woodturners
online at
www.wtnwoodturners.com

MINUTES OF MAY MEETING

Bob Hobbs presided over the May 8, 2010 meeting. Those in attendance were Nick Matos, Steve Kee, Al Stables, Bill Smith, Ken Ferrell, Chuck Jones, Larry Shelton, Cecil Cravens, Kirk Smith, Jerry Dawson, Norman Fowler, Charles Bartels, Dave Woodruff, Tilman Arant, Bill Kearns, Paul Reed, Bob Hobbs, and John Bonner.

There were no business issues brought up. It was announced that the annual membership fees are due June 1 (see separate no-

A MATTER OF COURTESY

All of our demonstrators put considerable effort into preparing for their presentation. Most travel a long distance to attend our meetings. Some lay no claim to being professional speakers or presenters and may even be a bit uneasy at it. All of them deserve our undivided attention. Some of us have drifted into the habit of carrying on side conversations and milling about the shop during demonstrations. This is very distracting to others in the audience, as well as disrespectful to the demonstrators.

If you have phone calls, business or other discussions that need to be handled during presentations, please be courteous enough to step outside to take care of it.

Thanks,

Officers of West Tennessee Woodturners

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 12—Regular Meeting. Norm Fowler demonstration—lidded box.

July 10—Regular Meeting. Dale Kee demonstration—coring bowls.

August 14—Regular Meeting. Cecil Cravens demonstration—inlays.

**September 11—Outdoor Meeting at Chuck & Glenda Jones' Farm.
Joel Benson chainsaw demonstration.**

October 9—Regular Meeting. Bill Kearns demonstration—bowls from scrap.

November 13—Regular Meeting.

December 11—Christmas Party

—Bulletin Board—

Free Wood

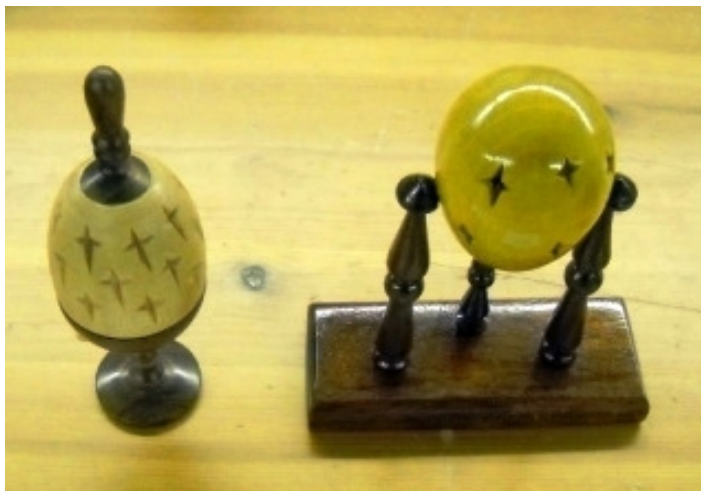
There are several Persimmon and Paulonia logs available. A gentleman named Johnny McKissack donated this wood to the club and Paul Reed hauled it to Chuck Jones' farm. If you are interested in some of it contact [Paul](#) or [Chuck](#).

Custom Built Tools

I am offering my custom made carbide tools for \$120.00 each. I have just developed the Ultimate Hollowing Tool by Smithbuilt Tool Co. I will post pics of both soon. The hollowing tool works great and is available for \$170.00 each. Sorry all orders must be prepaid as I engrave your name and ser. # on each one.

Kirk Smith kirkpsmith@aol.com

MAY INSTANT GALLERY



Jerry Dawson-Box-
Walnut & Maple-Poly

Jerry Dawson-
"EggStatic"-
Walnut & Maple-Poly



Dave Woodruff-Pens & Stopper



Steve & Dale Kee-Pens



Norm Fowler-HF-Mesquite

MAY INSTANT GALLERY



Norm Fowler-Hollow Form-Box Elder



Tilman Arant-Hackberry-Spray Lacquer



Kirk Smith-Vase-Spalted Hackberry-Poly



Kirk Smith-Duck Call-
Walnut & Osage Orange-
Poly

Kirk Smith-Duck Call-
Purple Heart & Plum-
Friction



Nick Matos-Vase-Oak-
21 coats w/o poly

Nick Matos-Candle-
Walnut-
30 coats w/o poly



Nick Matos-Bowl-Spalted Hackberry-
31 coats w/o poly-
weighs 5 oz

Spalt Your Own Lumber: Nutrient Supplements for Spalted Wood (e.g. beer)

By Sara Robinson

Fine Woodworking Magazine

Ah yes, the internet, the place that gives us such a variety of information. From research to conjecture to just plain silly (spalted wood will kill us all!), if you search long enough, you can find just about anything. Something that has caught my eye recently is the number of 'recipes' that exist for spalting wood. There is obviously some interest in this subject, so lets break it down with a little science.

Beer - its not just for drinking!

Apparently, some feel this beverage is perhaps better suited for spalting. Most sites seem to be in agreement that the beer must be poured over the wood, although I did find one that suggested drinking the beer, then urinating on the wood. While pouring the beer over the wood certainly won't hurt anything, its not really doing anything either (except costing you money, and wasting your beer). There's nothing special about the sugars in beer, and the wood, and this is important now, *doesn't need anything added to it*. If you take a look around, nature does just fine decaying wood without a handy helper.

But wait! Doesn't it speed the spalting process? The answer is, sadly, probably not. Pigment fungi are the fungi that use the surface sugars as their dietary basis, but then, so too do the molds. You're just as likely to encourage some dangerous mold fungi as the pigment fungi and really, its not going to speed things up nearly as much as just keeping the wood in a warm room.

In fact, pouring anything sugary over the wood has the possibility of causing a *longer* spalting incubation time. Stay with me here. White rot fungi, the fungi that cause bleaching and zone lines, cause that bleaching by removing lignin (part of the 'structure' of wood). Lignin is slightly pigmented, so its digestion lightens the wood. White-rot fungi aren't going to go after the hard food (lignin) if there is tons of easy food (sugar) around. Hence, until all that sugar is used up, you're not going to get lignin digestion, and therefore, not going to get bleaching.

Beer conclusion: drink it yourself, the fungi don't need it



This white rot took one summer, outside, in a wood pile. No nutrients, no beer, no soil. Just nature.

sugars do not help bleaching

Peeing on wood (with or without drinking beer beforehand)

Of all the recipes out there, this one has the best chance of working. Unfortunately, its kind of stinky. [Urine contains a lot of nitrogen](#) (urea), which is often a limiting growth requirement for fungi (fungi may have to stop growing because they can't get enough nitrogen, or at least, this is what my biochemistry class taught me). So, pee is good for fungal growth. Unfortunately, spalting isn't really about fungal *growth*, its about pigmentation and antagonism. So increasing growth and decay isn't really an objective. Now, if someone could come up with a compound that stimulated *pigments*, we'd be set.

SPALTING (CONT'D)

Peeing conclusion - take it or leave it. I'm not convinced. Also, I don't really want to pee on my wood. Call me crazy.

Nutrient and Sugar Mixtures - beer and pee under other names

It seems like almost everyone likes to use some sort of sugar/nutrient/nitrogen mixture on their spalted wood. Since I've already talked about most of this, I won't repeat myself except to remind you that the things that the fungi need *are already in the wood!* If they weren't, well, wood-decay fungi would have a pretty hard life. Also remember, you're not trying to stimulate growth, so adding things that stimulate the growth of a fungus is pointless at best, and highly destructive at worst (punky wood is hard to turn).

Nutrient conclusion: pointless.

Adding Wood Shavings / Soil

This method is doing two things, neither of which is stimulating anything. First, adding wood shavings and/or soil helps keep a high moisture content in the wood, which the fungi need to grow. Second, adding one or both of these introduces extra fungal spores, which may or may not be spalting fungi. So, no stimulation, but they are helping.

Shavings / soil conclusion: helpful for spalting, but not for the reasons most people think



pink stains prefer no soil or vermiculite

So, is there any way to speed up spalting?

How to really hurry the spalting process:

- 1) keep it warm (~80-85 degrees F)**
- 2) keep it wet (~20-25% MC)**
- 3) keep it dark (fungi don't like light)**
- 4) keep away from silly internet sites that promote recipes for additives to wood**

Clear as mud?

Sara

<http://www.northernspalting.com>