

Alabama Woodturners Association



Newsletter

February 2017

A member of the American Association of Woodturners
Meeting location: Homewood Senior Center, 816 Oak Grove Rd., Homewood, AL 35209
Meeting time: The second Saturday of each month at 9 am
www.alabamawoodturners.com

FEBRUARY DEMONSTRATOR ~ CARL CUMMINS

I grew up the son of an army officer in a career which took our family around the world, bringing both advantages and disadvantages. Since he retired at Fort McClellan, Alabama, fate and personal choice has kept me in AL. I spent most of my adult years creating computer software at the phone company, then retired in 2011.

I had previously tried woodturning and knew that was what I wanted to do next. With help from fellow club members Bruce Gibson and Bob Henry I received lessons, encouragement, and free wood! I read every book and watched every DVD I could find in public libraries and in our club library. I took several workshops at Arrowmont.

Gradually I worked up to what I call "beginning-intermediate level".

Originally I was attracted to woodturning by the traditional shapes in finials, balusters, bowls, vases, and platters. The more I noticed, the more variety

(See "Carl" on page 10)



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In this issue:

- President's Corner - Page 2
- January Meeting Recap - Page 3
- Antique Baby Rattle - Page 3
- Birthdays - Page 4
- Salt & Pepper Shakers - Page 4
- Interview with an Original - Page 5
- Coming Soon - Page 7
- January Turn & Tell - Page 8



Follow the Arrow...

(Turn the page)



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello to all?

I found out that the Pelham Woodcraft store offers a 10% discount in the form of reward points to AWA members. In order to qualify you must be a paid current member. Over a years' time this can add up quickly and maybe pay for the membership dues. I urge each of you who have not paid this year's dues to please do so. Once I get an up to date list of paid members I will get the list to woodcraft so they can set everyone up in their system to automatically apply the discount. As of last meeting we had 59 paid members

The President's challenge for the March meeting will be a natural edge turning. There are no restrictions to size and the bark can be either on or off.

April President's challenge will be a turned object made from four or more pieces of wood. Does not have to be segmented.

I have to say that I am a little disappointed with the turnout for the sharpening mentoring session following the January meeting. The people demonstrating had to move equipment from their shop to the meeting. It can be disheartening to do this and have little participation. There are many club members with plenty of skills to share with all of you, so please take advantage of the mentoring sessions.

Pete Marken




The Woodworking Shows Atlanta, GA March 31 - April 2, 2017

For the past 30 years, The Woodworking Shows have established a devoted following by providing woodworkers with an outlet for their passion through tools, education and a unique sense of community by hosting hands-on trade shows for woodworkers across the United States.

**Please see their website for more information:
<http://www.thewoodworkingshows.com/atlanta.html>.**

If you want to go to the show and are interested in carpooling with someone, there will be a signup sheet at the February and March meetings so you can see who else is interested and make carpool arrangements.



Afterthoughts from a Demo-er

I hope you weren't bored and maybe learned to do something a little different from my demo in January, other than the flatness (or lack thereof) of the backside of the bracelet blank.

Yes, I was nervous, but not because I was scared of how you would respond, but because I didn't want you to feel that you had wasted a perfectly beautiful "winter" Saturday.

Thank you for being the wonderful, receptive audience you were. I had an enjoyable time and hope that I can demo again for you sometime. If you'll let me, that is.

Jean Cline

January 2017 Demonstrator



Making an Antique-style Baby Rattle

by Fred Holder

Several years ago I was watching a movie, Australian I believe, where the baby in the family had died. The time period of the movie was the 1800's. The mother was putting away the baby's things and the last thing she laid in the trunk was a wooden baby rattle. This inspired me to make one with a similar antique look.

I've used about every type of hardwood for these rattles, but I find that the harder and closer-grained the wood, the better the ring cutting tools work. The rattle I made for this article was made from a chunk of plum wood and I used the Robert Sorby 1/4-inch set of ring cutting tools. The wood had been curing for about ten years, so it was very dry. I recommend that you use a slightly more wet wood to



make your first few baby rattles--it turns easier. I used my Teknatool Nova DVR 3000 lathe. The wood was turned round and sized to fit the Super Nova2 chuck on my lathe, see Figure 1.

I begin by reducing the stock to about 1-1/4 to 1-1/2 inch in diameter. I never measure it but they

Figure 1. Here the wood has been turned round and to about 1-1/2" in diameter.

(See "Rattle" on page 11)

Hey! Wanna learn more about turning? Or help someone else learn more about turning?

Mentoring is available Saturday afternoons in the Craft Room at the Homewood Senior Center. Sessions start one hour after the demonstration ends or 1 pm.

AWA owns lathes, chucks and tools to use in class, but you may also bring your own.

If you are interested in participating either as a student or a mentor, Phil would love to talk to you and sign you up!

**Phil Fortmeyer
(205) 612-7496**

See page 6 for upcoming classes.

AWA February Birthdays

Myra Harper - 2/3

John Jackman - 2/20

Bill Payton - 2/22

Tommy Hartline - 2/15

Sally Street - 2/20

Jeff Honea - 2/24

Birthday Door Prize News

AWA gives a birthday gift door prize to a turner who has a birthday during the month of that meeting. Here are the 'rules' for 2017 as they stand now:

- 1) This is a door prize so, yes, you need to be at the meeting and stay for the drawing to win.
- 2) You need to make sure Jean and/or Amy have your correct birth date. No fair changing your birth date in the middle of the year! You're stuck with the one they originally gave you!

Crazyprofile.com



Congratulations to Bill West on winning the lathe in the most recent raffle!

Spherical Salt and Pepper Shakers

by Fred Holder

These salt and pepper shakers are ball-shaped objects with a recessed cone on the bottom side with a small hole in the bottom of the cone. You pour salt or pepper into the cone, shake the ball until the salt slides through the small hole. Turn the cone down and no salt comes out. Shake the ball and magically salt finds its way through the small hole and applies salt to your food. I tried it with pepper and found it worked quite well also.

Requirements for this Project (see Photo 1):

1. A hardwood ball (I used a 2-1/2" Holly ball for this project)
2. A ball chuck made from PVC Compression Fitting to fit the particular size ball you are using
3. Roughing Gouge for initial shaping of the wood
4. Spindle Gouge for detailed work
5. Parting Tool
6. Small hollowing tool
7. Drill chuck to fit the tailstock; Morse Taper and two sizes of Forstner bits: 1 1/4" and 1"



Photo 1. Tools for the project

(See "Shakers" on page 13)

Interview with an "Original"

As we approach the 20th anniversary of this AWA chapter, we thought it would be nice to look back to the charter members, the "Originals," to see what got them started and keeps them coming back. Below, you will find an interview with one of the Original Turners, Moody Davis. We hope you enjoy.

How long have you been turning or been a member of the Alabama Woodturners Association? Why did you join?

I believe that I joined in 1994. I joined because I was relatively new at wood turning and I wanted to learn more about it and improve.

What would you like to see AWA accomplish?

Spread the knowledge of woodturning among those that know little about the proper way to turn and finish a turned object. To do this, we must slant our demos more toward that rather than have so many artsy demos - relatively new turners are made to feel - "I can never do that" rather than "Oh, now I see how that is done!"

How did you get started turning?

Bought an old Sears "tube" lathe and started Scraping AND SANDING. Had no one to talk to or show me.

What do you like to turn most?

Bowl from hollow trees or limbs, and Christmas ornaments.

Do you have a picture of something you have created? Something you are proud of?

Yes - a few

What do you wish someone had told you when you were first starting out?

How to use the tools available - it was 1993 BEFORE I KNEW THERE WAS SUCH A THING AS A BOWL GOUGE.

What do you have the most difficulty with?

Getting A CLEAN SMOOTH CUT ON THE CROSS GRAIN OF SOFT WOOD.

Do you have a mentor and/or a favorite turner?

Bob Henry and Howard King

What do you do when you're not turning something?

Build a few wood items, repair clocks, yard work, study and teach a Bible class at church and read a lot.

We're all turners here, what makes you special and different from everyone else?

Didn't know that I was until I read your email!!!!

What have you done in a previous phase of your life?

Was in the US navy, worked as an engineer with NASA, directed the choir at my church, was an avid runner for 26 years.

What else would you like us to know about you?

Been married to the same woman for 58 years.

What is something about you or what you do/have done, outside woodturning, that most of our members don't know?

No clue!



↑ NOT Moody Davis



Blacksmithing Class for Turners

Vulcan Forge at Tannehill Ironworks near Bessemer is willing to conduct a blacksmithing class for woodturners. It is a one-day course on the first Saturday in March (03/04/17) with all of the tools and supplies provided. It will be conducted under the direction of award-winning and nationally recognized master blacksmith, James Whatley, and approximately five other smiths. The class will cover how to use tools that most of us have, construction of a simple forge from a propane torch, converting old tools and scrap steel with forging and heat-treating into woodworking tools.

The cost will be \$25, which includes a one-year membership in Vulcan Forge plus \$5 per person (total of \$30) for lunch on class day. A family membership is available for slightly more. There is an admission charge to enter Tannehill. Participation is limited to 15 people but spectators are permitted. There may be an opportunity to purchase items from the smiths just as at their meetings. Those who wish may attend additional blacksmithing classes for one year at Vulcan Forge at no additional charge.

This is a hands-on class where students will forge wood turning tools. Participants need to wear all natural (wool, cotton, linen, leather) clothing and bring safety glasses. Students will be able to take home the tools they make.

To register or if you have questions, contact James Vaughn at (205) 608-0022 or cahabatraders@hotmail.com.

For those who have already signed up, class will be behind the Blacksmith Shop, at the Barn.

The class is currently full, but you can still sign up as an alternate in case someone can't make it on March 4.

Multi-axis Woodturning References:

Multi-axis Spindle Turning: Further Exploration by Barbara Dill, *American Woodturner* magazine, Vol. 26, No. 6, December 2011

http://www.barbaradill.com/images/xx_MultiAxis_LR1018-1.pdf

<http://www.barbaradill.com/paper.html>

Multi-axis Candlesticks by Mark Sfirri, *American Woodturner* magazine, Vol. 9, No. 1, March 1994

<http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.woodturner.org/resource/resmgr/journals/09-01.pdf>

Heavy Lifting: Mark Sfirri Weighs in at Penn State Gallery by David M. Fry, *American Woodturner* magazine, Vol. 29 No. 5, October 2014.

<https://c.ymcdn.com/sites/aaw.site-ym.com/resource/resmgr/Journal2/29-5.pdf>

Ecole Escoulen woodturning school, Aiguines, France
www.escoulen.com

Woodturning Methods by Mike Darlow, Chapter Six "Multi-Axis Turning", Also Chapter Five "Eccentric Turning" and Chapter Seven "Elliptical Turning".

YouTube Videos:

Mark Sfirri

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7uZNMvwHHIY>

Robbiethewoodturner

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72tHSs_9mdo

Barbara Dill

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JK1EvP_NCI0

Jean-François Escoulen

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





Upcoming Events

February 11

Morning Demo Carl Cummins - Off-set Turning	Afternoon Mentoring Off-set Turning
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March 11

Morning Demo Someone turning something	Afternoon Mentoring TBD
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Do you have what it takes to be an 'I.F.'?

Have you ever walked into a new place where the only person you knew was yourself? It can be a rather unnerving and kinda scary feeling! AWA would like to fix that!

So what is an 'I.F.'? Simply stated an I.F. is an 'Instant Friend!' You would be part of a very special group within the AWA membership. Here's how it would work: When you get to a meeting and sign in, you'll note that you are an I.F. When someone identifies themselves as a guest or new member, Jean and/or Amy will introduce you. Your tasks would be to simply be a friend - show them the important things (donuts, coffee, best place to sit to watch the demo, etc.), engage them in conversation about woodturning (you already have that in common!) and perhaps, introduce them to other turners. In short, just be a friend!

How do you get to be an Instant Friend? Let Jean and/or Amy know when you sign in at the meetings! They will take it from there!

Raffle Ticket Prize News

We're changing the raffle once again!

Bring an item to donate and buy raffle tickets. We'll raffle the items donated and all of the tickets will go into the pot for a new lathe!

Soooo...what do you donate? How about a tool, jig, turned item, wood blank, etc. If you've been to the last several meetings, you probably saw some of the items that were donated for the lathe raffle. That should give you a pretty good idea. Use your imagination ...within reason, of course! As a bonus, if you bring donations, you'll get one additional raffle ticket for each item!

The success of this raffle and when the drawing takes place will depend on your willingness to donate nice items and also to buy raffle tickets.

\$1 each~~~~~\$5 for 6 tickets~~~~~\$10 for 13 tickets

More money = more tickets!!! See Amy for details!

If you don't think you are an expert turner, look at any of the newsletters from other clubs. You will see that your turnings are equal to anything out there. Your turned items *ARE* 'good enough'.

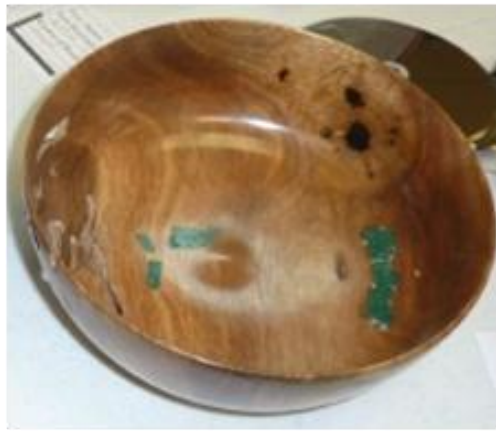
January Turn and Tell Highlights



Cont. on page 9

January Turn and Tell Highlights, cont.

Cont. from page 8



("Carl", cont. from page 1)

and possibilities I saw, even though basically "round" in one sense or another. I was also attracted by the speed of an accomplished turner to achieve a finished product. Thirdly, I love the beauty of wood (an appreciation I share with most other turners). Even when the shape is altered completely, the grain, color, and feel still evoke admiration. I can still enjoy seeing and handling turned objects even if my craftsmanship is not up to par.



A pivotal moment occurred for me while attending a workshop at Arrowmont. In the gallery in front of the woodturning studio I saw pieces that completely blew me away. They leaned and twisted in ways that seemed impossible for something created on a lathe. I also enjoyed the originality and humor of these pieces, unlike anything I had seen before. I recorded the name "Jean-François Escoulen" and was determined to investigate.



As I researched Escoulen on the internet I found many more of his works, ever more varied and entertaining. And I went on from there. Having learned the term "multi-axis" I also found the works of Mark Sfirri, original and humorous in their own way. Barbara Dill is another

turner who has devoted considerable attention to multi-axis turning.

As I struggled to learn the craft of woodturning I have tried almost all forms of turning, but still find multi-axis and eccentric work especially entertaining. I invested in the special chucks required for JFE-style works, but also attempted multi-axis projects that don't require special tools. For example, all the works of Mark Sfirri are done between centers.

I feel that I still have a long way to go to get to the "accomplished" stage. I try to turn something every day that I can get to my shop. Every day is different because I like variety. Although I switch to different styles, I always try to improve my technique. As I continue my journey through the various styles of turning, I frequently return to multi-axis and eccentric turning.

To learn more about multi-axis woodturning, see the references on page 6.



("rattle", cont. from page 3)

just seem to come out about that size. I make a "V" cut with the skew close to the tailstock, but far enough away so that there will not be a problem with the center hole winding up in the end of the rattle. Don't cut this "V" too deep right now. Another "V" is now made to the left of the first one about 5/8-inch center to center. This "V" is the beginning of the recess where the rings will slide freely to rattle. Cut this a bit deeper, about 3/8-inch deep should do the job. See Figure 2.

Now, take the 1/4-inch beading tool and cut a bead. The right side of the tool should just cut into your "V". I've found it works best if you gently rock the tool handle from side to side. This tool is basically a scraper, so it should be tipped slightly downward also. Don't try to cut too heavily or you may break out pieces of your ring. I generally cut in with the beading tool until the ring has just cleaned up. See Figure 3. The only sharpening you need to do on the beading tool is to hone the top face. You should never grind the other parts that were ground to shape at the factory.

The skew chisel is used to widen the space on each side of the bead. You need a 3/8 to 1/2-inch wide "V" on either side of the bead. I generally cut straight in on either side of the bead with the long point of the skew. It doesn't really matter which side of the bead you attack with the ring cutting tools first. I've developed the habit of cutting on the right side first and then cutting the ring loose with the left side tool. It takes a little practice to use these tools. A steady hand and a little care is all that's needed. You don't have to be a great woodturner to cut a very acceptable loose ring with these tools. The instructions that came with the ring cutting tools said you can cut rings without using the beading tool first, but I've found my rings are better when the beading tool is used to cut the top.

Here are the instructions for cutting a loose ring (taken from the Woodcraft catalog):

- (1) cut a bead with a beading tool,
- (2) cut to depth beside the bead with a parting tool,
- (3) use the right ring tool to cut the rear right of the ring,
- (4) use the left ring tool to cut the rear left of the ring, which will also separate the ring.

Once the ring is loose, I take a 3/8-inch spindle gouge and make the recess deeper to allow the ring to float freely. Make a second loose ring with the right hand side

(See "Rattle" on page 12)

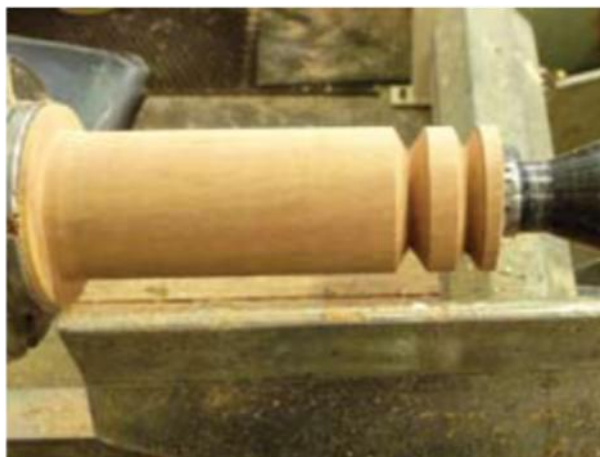


Figure 2. Two V-cuts have been made near the tailstock. The space in between the cuts will define the knob on the end for teething.

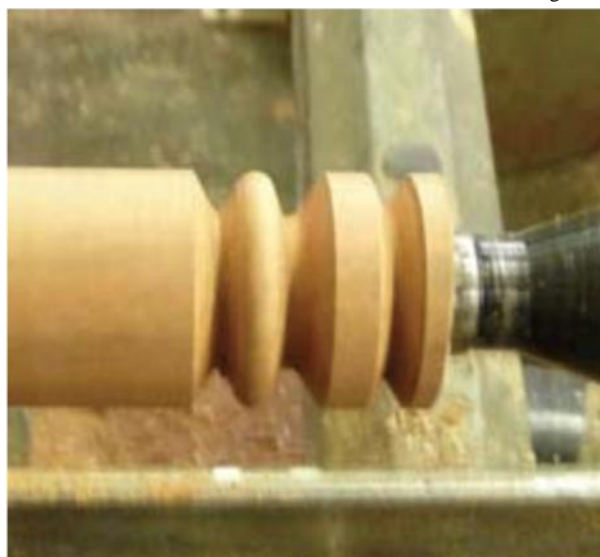


Figure 3. Here the top of the ring-to-be has been cut with the Sorby beading tool.



Figure 4. Here the ring is nearly cut loose. I finally cut the ring loose with the tool on the left side of the ring.

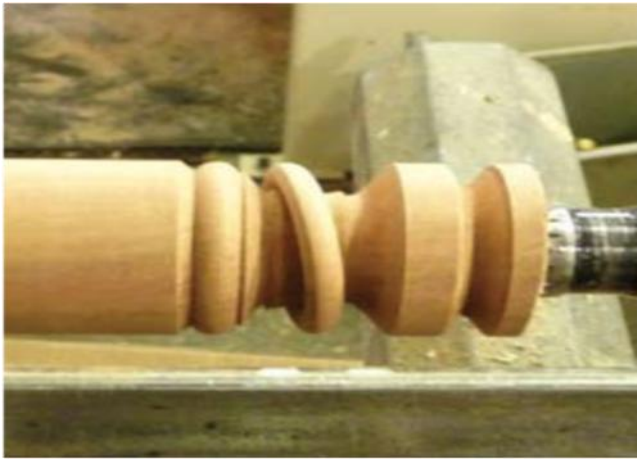


Figure 5. Starting the second loose ring.

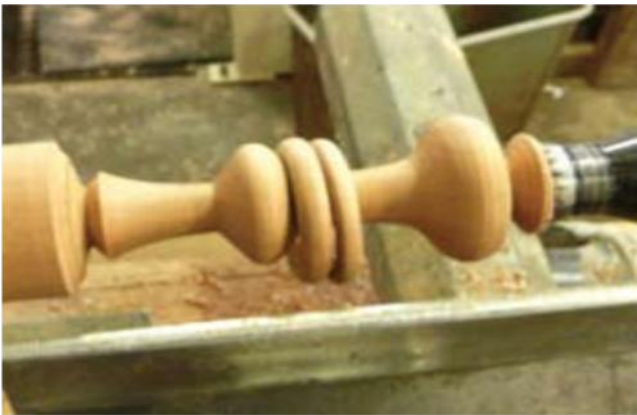


Figure 6. Here the piece is pretty much ready for sanding.



Figure 7. The Robert Sorby tools used in this project: (top to bottom) Right hand side tool, beading tool, and left hand side tool.



Figure 8. The finished baby rattle.

("Rattle", cont. from page 11)

of the beading tool just cutting into the "V" on the left side of the ring recess (see Figure 5). This is done in exactly the same manner as the first ring. Use the 1/4-inch spindle gouge to clean up and size the bottom of the ring recess. I generally cut this down to about 1/2 to 3/8 inch in diameter. Again it's not critical, no need to size specifically.

Using the skew chisel, I cut a "V" about 1/2 inch to the left of the ring recess and another one about one inch further to the left to define the far left dimension of the rattle, also the end of the handle. Form a bead between the handle and the ring recess. Make this bead smaller than the ring diameters, but larger than the inside diameter of the rings--you don't want them to slip off.

Form the handle and put in two decorative "V" cuts with the skew. At this time I cut the "V" at the end of the handle down to about 1/4 inch. I then shift to the far right side and turn the piece between the first "V" cut and the ring recess into a pleasing knob shape. Babies like to cut their teeth on this knob, at least my grandson used his for that purpose. Again leave about 1/4-inch of material on the right end, also (see Figure 6). Now, you can sand the rattle. I generally don't go finer than 280 or 320 grit. Remember, this is going into a baby's mouth and, if they are cutting teeth, it will not be smooth for very long. I personally find them more attractive if they aren't too highly polished.

After I'm satisfied with the sanding job, I cut the V's at each end down to about 1/8-inch, just enough to still hold everything together. I prefer to separate the rattle from the rest of the spindle with a knife or saw. I use a knife to pare off the excess and then hand sand to smooth each end.

Add a coat of non-toxic oil and you have a completed rattle. I used the Mahoney Walnut Oil finish, which works very well. The finished baby rattle is not too large, but it meets the minimum size requirement for baby toys.

This information is provided by *More Woodturning Magazine*. Please visit their web site: www.morewoodturningmagazine.com.

("Shakers", cont. from page 4)

8. Small hand-held drill chuck with a 3/32" drill bit
9. Cup centers to hold the ball between centers for final sanding
10. Spring divider
11. Sandpaper in various grits down to 600 grit
12. Wax and a polishing cloth

To begin this project, mark a center point on an end grain part of the ball, mount the ball into the ball chuck, and align it with the tail center (see Photo 2).

Tighten the chuck to hold the ball firmly in the chuck. If you don't wish to make one of the ball chucks, you can substitute a jam fit chuck to hold the ball. The jam fit chuck would be best made from wet wood so that it will hold very securely.

Drill a hole about 1/4 deep with the 1-1/4" Forstner bits. (see Photo 3).



Photo 2. Ball held in ball chuck with center marked.



Photo 3. Drilling the 1-1/4" hole about 1/4" deep.

Follow up with the 1" Forstner bit and drill the hole about three fourths of the way through the ball. Take care to not drill all of the way through the ball (see Photo 4).

Now, using a small offset hollowing tool (I used one of the Crown small hollowing tools with about a 45-degree offset), enlarge the hole inside the ball. You can make this as large as you feel comfortable with to make the shaker lighter and to hold more salt or simply enlarge the area to provide a larger capacity for salt than is provided by the drilled hole (see Photo 5).

Remove the chuck from the lathe with the ball still held firmly and set it aside. Mount another piece of wood of the same type as your ball and turn it round. Mark a line from the end of the wood that is 1/2 the diameter of your ball.



Photo 4. Drilling the 1" hole about 3/4 of the way through the ball.



Photo 5. After hollowing the ball with a small offset tool



Photo 6. Cone ready to insert into the ball ("Shakers", cont. from page 13)



Photo 7. Drilling the 3/32" hole in the cone



Photo 8. Plug turned to the ball shape

Now, set your spring caliper to fit snugly on the 1-1/4" Forstner drill bit. Using the parting tool and the caliper, cut a tenon about 1/4" wide on the line. This tenon should fit into the recess in your ball. Reset the caliper to the size of the 1" drill and turn a second step 1" in diameter. Then taper from this point to the end of the wood as shown in Photo 6.

With the parting tool used like a skew chisel, cut a small cone-shaped hole in the very end of the wood. Using that cone shaped hole as a guide, drill a 3/32" hole in the end of the tapered section (see Photo 7).

This hole doesn't need to penetrate the full length of the cone shape, about half way will be sufficient. Part off about 1/4" beyond the edge of the larger step and glue the piece into your ball. I used yellow glue (Titebond II to be specific). I mounted the ball chuck back onto the lathe, applied glue to the steps on the cone shaped piece of Photo 7, inserted the cone into the ball and used the tailstock as a clamp for about one half hour. When the glue as set sufficiently, turn the plug to the ball shape as shown in Photo 8.

Using a small spindle gouge, turn a cone-shaped recess into the inserted cone. Exert care not to turn through the side of the cone. With luck, the small hole will be in the center of the cone-shaped recess as shown in Photo 9.

At this point, you are done with the turning and only have to sand and finish the piece. I've found that balls are easiest to sand when mounted between two cone centers on the lathe as shown in Photo 10.

Sand through the grits to about 600 grit, apply wax and buff with a cloth or with a buffing wheel and you are done.

Make a second one and insert a white wood (like holly) in the top of the salt shaker and a black wood (like African blackwood) in the second one to create a salt and pepper shaker (see Photo 11).

This information is provided by *More Woodturning Magazine*. Please visit their web site: www.morewoodturningmagazine.com.



Photo 9. The cone-shaped recess with small hole in center



Photo 10. Between centers for sanding



Photo 11. Salt and Pepper Shakers