

**Meeting Notes – January 28, 2010**  
**Alamo Woodturners Association (AWA) <http://alamoturners.com>**

**Business:**

AWA President, Robert Schoenert, called the meeting to order and asked for a Treasurer’s report. C.D. Barrington, AWA Treasurer, reported a previously reported expense in the amount of \$28.22 was cancelled. Expenses of \$32.00 for November and December brings a balance of \$2,704.70.

**Announcements:**

*American Association of Woodturners:* <http://www.woodturner.org>

Robert pointed out the many benefits of membership in the AAW. He gave the featured article in the current issue, “Turning Diamonds” as an example of the advanced ideas it illustrates.

*Woodcraft:* <http://www.woodcraft.com/>

Robert reminded us that Woodcraft supplies AWA with a room to meet, complete with equipment and utilities in addition to offering a 10% discount on all turning related products purchased on a meeting day. Woodcraft is moving to a new location and Robert suggested that those of us who have pick-ups and/or trailers might want to volunteer to help move their products to the new location. This would be a good way to say thank-you for all they have done for our organization over the years.

*Alamo Turners Association:* <http://www.alamoturners.com>

We have an excellent website, we need to visit it frequently and make use of its features, particularly the “For Sale” section as this is a good place to list items you may no longer need.

*SouthWest Association of Turners (SWAT):* <http://www.swaturners.org>

We were again reminded of the event which will be held August 27 – 29. Several members commented on the quality of the event and stressed that it is an excellent value and all should attend.

**Show-N-Tell”**

Presenter	Item	Wood
Ron Cochran	Lidded Box	Walnut
	Vase	Spalted Pecan
Kurt Acosta	Lidded Box	Mesquite Burl
	Bowl with Turquoise inlay	Mesquite
	Bowl with Turquoise inlay	Mesquite
Peter Hawkins	Two Hollow forms	Mesquite with ebonized mesquite finial
	Hollow Cylindrical form. Textured, ebonized & fluted	Mesquite
Frank Parker	Urn for Human Remains Polyurathane finish inside & outside. Includes Bag with screws and pad for bottom	Unknown
	Vase	Beetle Killed Pine
	Vase with widened slit & rawhide lacing	Beetle Killed Pine
	Small Vase finished with Tung Oil	Beetle Killed Pine

Pictures can be seen at: <http://alamoturners.shutterfly.com>

## Demonstration:

*Johnny Tolly: Christmas ornaments for his children.*

The three components of the ornament, spherical section, (Body), finial and icicle, require the same general steps: turning stock preparation, hollowing/shaping and finishing.

*Editors Note: At the end of his demonstration Johnny showed all the various materials that could be used to produce the spherical portion of the ornament. Therefore I will refer to that as the "stock". The white wood used for the icicle and finial on many of his ornaments is Holly.*

**Spherical Section:** Prepare the stock for this component as follows:

Cut your stock to the length required for the height of the sphere, allowing extra for your chuck, and then mark the center of each end. If the stock is square it is rounded using one of three methods.

1. Mount a faceplate to the lathe drive and use the tailstock to hold the stock against the faceplate, for a friction drive.
2. Mount a Steb center or similar drive chuck and hold between centers with the tail stock.
3. Cut corners off to near the desired diameter using a band saw. Mount between centers as above and round.

After rounding to the desired profile, cut a tenon on one end that fits your chuck.

Johnny prefers the "Vincent Welch" sanding set; he recommends sanding at a slower speed and sand both forward and in the reverse direction if your lathe permits.

Mark the center of the sphere with a pencil to align the side holes to be drilled later..

Begin the hollowing process by marking the desired depth of the hollow cavity on the shank of a 5/8 inch forstner bit. Smaller forstner bits may be used for smaller spheres. This is done by holding the bit along the side of the stock and allowing approximately 1/8 inch from to the desired outside edge, and marking the shaft at the entry edge of the stock to be drilled.

Lower the speed of the lathe and drill to the maximum depth of the cavity. First use the Mike Hunter straight cutter to expand the inside of the sphere. Go in as far as you can while using an arc cut. Then progress to the Mike Hunter angle cutter. Again reach in as far as possible without damaging the entry hole. Finally use the Mike Hunter double angle tool to reach the inside of the hollow closest to the entry hole.

Johnny emphasized that when you hear or feel a slight jumping or bumping sensation, which is your clue to stop and extract the chips inside the hollowed sphere with a vacuum or short blast of air. He also advises to always cut down-hill on the fibers. Use a "bow-tie" style caliper to judge the thickness and see where more cutting is necessary. This style caliper works well for the back-side of the form but will not reach the areas near the entry-hole half of the sphere.



For this you could use a simple "wire" gauge but Johnny has built his own various size gauges to reach this area. His gauges, which look a bit like "C" clamps, are made of aluminum but he says that brass works well also.



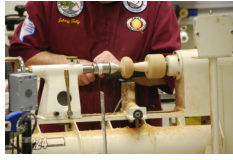
Stop the lathe frequently and use the cutter to "feel" the inside for any ridges. Also, determine if the total depth is proper. If not, re-affix the forstner bit, drill a bit deeper and finish using the sequence described above.

The side holes are drilled near the end of the operation. They provide a view inside the hollow body that both helps determine if more work is needed inside and also provides the recipient/customer an idea of the wall thickness and weight of the object.

Johnny uses the "OneWay Drill Wizard" tool for drilling these holes. Align on the previously marked centerline and use whatever indexing system you have to space the holes.



Note: A mistake here could change the number of holes necessary to remain symmetric. Also, drill with a forstner bit and not a brad point. The brad point can catch on a curved surface but the forstner will always have some wood to ride on until you get completely through on all sides. Drill completely through the wood using a 3/8" forstner bit then remove the wood from the chuck and the chuck from the lathe.



Make a drive chuck fabricated of stacked MDF. This is shaped with a taper that will go inside the original entry hole. The sphere is then held between centers with the 3/8" hole on the tailstock live center so the original chuck profile can be turned off. The smaller hole in the top side of the sphere is to attach the finial. The larger entry hole is where the icicle is affixed.

If the sides of the sphere are to be removed, use a sturdy fixture to hold it and cut-off using a band saw. This gives a positive and negative space.

**Icicle and Finial:** These pieces are roughed and tapered with a tenon cut on the larger end. This tenon should be very straight so that it fits correctly when glued-up to the sphere, or body. Re-chuck by the tenon and support with the tailstock, then shape as desired. It is best to use a "story stick" to lay-out your desired profile, especially if you are making multiple ornaments and you want them to appear as duplicates. Johnny suggests you start cutting at the small end and leave the tailstock in place until you get about half way through the piece. This helps dampen any vibration. He also recommends cutting and finishing in sections as you progress toward the larger diameter end.

Now glue on the icicle and finial, affix a hangar and you are done.

**Bring-Back Drawing:**

Provider	Item	Recipient
Peter Hawkins	180 Year Old Pecan Blank	Ron Cochran
Kurt Acosta	Spalted Cedar Elm Blank	Ron Cochran
	Spalted Cedar Elm Blank	Gordon Kincheloe
??	Vince's Sanding Set	Ken Bayshore
Frank Parker	Mesquite Stamp Holder	George Taylor

**Closing:**

Being no further business, Robert adjourned the meeting. Several members secured the area.

Photos by Bob Edwards and C.D. Barrington