

## President's Message



Folks, it is not too late to sign-up for the Jacques Vesery workshop this November.

I will need the inventory/price lists from everyone participating in the Jekyll Island show at our August meeting. Also I will need the artwork at the September meeting if you want me to deliver the pieces. Remember, the opening of our show is October 2 from 1 to 3 pm. Please plan on coming even if you are not participating, it will be a great exhibition of the club's work. ■

## Safety Tip!

Roy Yarger has graciously agreed to act as the club's safety officer for the remainder of the year.



When using a faceplate, be certain the workpiece is solidly mounted with stout screws (#10 or #12 sheet metal screws as a minimum). Do not use drywall or deck screws. ■

## Mark Your Calendars

**Tidewater Turners of Virginia**  
**Member's 2016 Exhibition Norfolk, VA**  
Tues, September 6–Sun, October 16  
**Regional Symposium: Mid Atlantic**  
**Woodturners Association Lancaster, PA**  
Saturday & Sunday, September 24–25  
**Lowcountry Turners Group Exhibit**  
Goodyear Cottage, Jekyll Island, GA  
Sat, October 1–Monday, October 31  
Reception: Sunday, October 2, 1pm

**Southern States Woodturning**  
**Symposium Cartersville, GA**  
Featuring Dixie Biggs, Dennis Paullus,  
Greg Pennington, Stuart Mortimer,  
Peggy Schmid, Nick Cook and Steve Cook  
Fri, March 10–Sun, March 12

# WHAT'S TURNIN'?

Lowcountry Turners / [lowcountryturners.com](http://lowcountryturners.com) / August 2016

The "Catch and Cuss" Turners of Coastal Georgia and South Carolina

## Jekyll Island Group Exhibit October 1-31

We will be exhibiting 40 pieces at the Goodyear Cottage on Jekyll Island this October. Fourteen members have already committed to being in the show, which means roughly three pieces per exhibitor. If you would like to submit pieces, please let Roy know ASAP. All items must be for sale, with a \$2,000 limit for a single item. Goodyear Cottage takes a 25% commission.

Inventory sheets (attached) are due at the August 25 meeting. Each piece in the show must be labelled with the same item number listed on your inventory sheet. The item number will be the artist's initials followed by a number (i.e., RY1, RY2, RY3, etc.). In addition to the item number, include the title of the piece, the type of wood or other medium, the artist's name and the price. Be sure to also include your address so checks can be mailed to you after the show for items sold.

The pieces are due at the September 29 meeting, or need to be delivered to Goodyear Cottage by 9am on October 1. If enough pieces sell before the exhibit is over, we may have the opportunity to "replenish" the exhibit with additional pieces. ■



A heartfelt thanks to Crystal Holman for her demonstration of pyrography techniques at the July meeting. ■

## Jacques Vesery Workshop November 18-19

There are still a few tickets left for this workshop. Be sure you reserve your spot on your desired day. The workshop is \$100 for a one-day, eight-hour class. Choose from either Friday or Saturday. To sign up, fill out the form attached to this newsletter and either mail or hand it to Lou Cook. Lou will be taking cash, checks or credit cards at the next member meeting on August 25. ■



## August Monthly Meeting

Our next monthly member meeting will take place on Thursday, August 25. Roy Yarger will be demonstrate a disc vase. Roy is actually famous for his disc vase! See his article in the Summer 2005 issue of *Woodturning Design* (attached). ■





A Lowcountry Turners SPECIAL EVENT

# JACQUES VESERY WORKSHOP

Friday, November 18 and  
Saturday, November 19 • 9am–5pm



**Jacques is an award-winning woodturner and sculptor, and a much sought-after lecturer and demonstrator.**

His work is in the permanent collections of institutions such as The Carnegie Art

Museum, the Yale University Art Gallery, and the AAW, and has appeared in many solo and group exhibitions across the country. He's known for his richly carved and painted pieces, often incorporating natural elements like feathers and leaves.

**The workshop will be \$100 for a one-day, eight-hour class at Maven Makers in Savannah.**

Choose from either Friday or Saturday. Bring \$10 for lunch and we'll order out. *Space is limited, and tickets will sell out quickly, so reserve your spot today!*



Visit [lowcountryturners.com](http://lowcountryturners.com) for more information. Maven Makers, 415 W Boundary St, Savannah, GA

## SIGN UP FORM

### Jacques Vesery Workshop

Choose which day you'd like to attend.

- Friday, November 18
- Saturday, November 19
- No preference, sign me up for whichever day is available

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Name

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Phone Number

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Email Address



**Send this completed form and your check for \$100 to:**

Lou Cook  
Lowcountry Turners Treasurer  
P.O. Box 589  
Tybee Island, GA 31328-0589

Or bring this form and your check to a Lowcountry Turners member meeting (*last Thursday of every month at Maven Makers at 6pm*), or leave them with the front desk at Maven Makers.

# Making a Disc Vase

by William Roy Yarger



The disc vase I now make evolved from an original article I read many years ago in *Woodturning* magazine. That article described making a disc-shaped dried flower vase that was mounted on a pedestal. My design evolved into a free-standing vase that can be used with or without an insert to accommodate water for cut flowers. However, I make the majority of my vases to use with dry arrangements because I think the design looks better with dried flowers or weeds (see cover photo). This design really takes advantage of the grain and coloring of a beautiful piece of wood. I vary the design to keep my work fresh, and you can check my website at [www.turnedart.com](http://www.turnedart.com) for variations on this design (one is also shown in **Fig. 10**). Use your own imagination and create a "one of a kind" vase of your own by following the process described here.

## STOCK SELECTION

Select a piece of wood approximately 7" to 10" in diameter x 3" thick. A piece of wood with lots of figure achieves the most beautiful vase. Spalted wood or burls work very well with this design. For this article, I have selected a piece of maple burl that contains some spalting. If the block is square, find the center, draw a circle, and cut around the line on the bandsaw (see **Fig. 1**). This will create a round blank to begin this project.

## MOUNT THE BLANK

You need to attach two glue blocks to the blank in order to mount it on the lathe for turning. The first will be 3" in diameter x 1" thick and the second will be 2" in diameter x 1" thick.

First clean up one side of the blank of wood. I do this by flattening the side on a 6" belt sander. Find the center of the blank of wood and draw a 3" circle with a compass. Attach the 3" glue block to the wood in the center of the circle with cyanoacrylate glue (CA or superglue). If the blank is larger than 3" thick, you can mount the piece between centers and turn away 1" on one side to create the 3" mounting block.

Attach a glue block to the end that will eventually become the base of the blank. I cut a flat spot on the bottom of the blank first. To do this, determine which will be the bottom of the vase. With a bandsaw,

## SUPPLIES

**Wood:** *figured wood of choice* (maple burl was used for project shown) – 7" to 10" diameter x 3" thick

**Tools:** wood lathe with assorted turning chisels, adjustable chuck, drill chuck with 7/16" or 1/2" bits (or sized to the glass tube insert), vacuum chuck, 3/8" gouge, bandsaw, awl

Power sanding system with assorted abrasive discs

Assorted grits of abrasive paper

Finish of choice (urethane oil is recommended)

Glass tube insert (if making a vase for live flowers)\*

Cyanoacrylate glue (CA or superglue)

Masking tape

Face shield (Important)

Gloves (Recommended)

*\*Available from both Craft Supplies USA, 1287 E 1120 S, Provo, UT 84606; phone: 800-551-8876; website: [www.woodturnerscatalog.com](http://www.woodturnerscatalog.com) and from Packard Woodworks, Inc., PO Box 718, Tryon, NC 28782; phone: 800-683-8876; website: [www.packardwoodworks.com](http://www.packardwoodworks.com).*

cut a 1" section off the bottom. Mark a centerline on the base. Find the center of the base, mark it with an awl, and draw a 2" circle around this center (see Fig. 2). Attach the 2" glue block to the center of this flat spot (see Fig. 3).

## TURN THE DEPRESSION AND DRILL THE HOLE

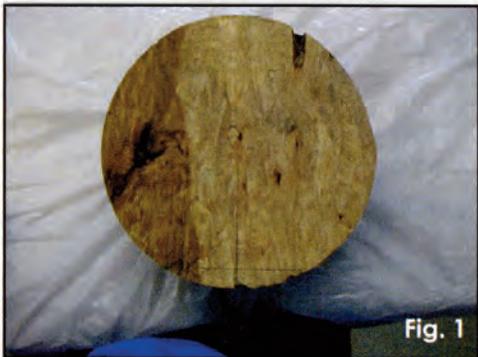
Mount the base glue block into a 4-jawed chuck and bring up the tailstock and live center to the top of the block of wood (see Fig. 4). Set your lathe to a slow speed (around 750 RPM). Stand to the side and turn on the lathe. If the block of wood is stable, you can start to form the depression in the top of the vase. I use a 3/8" gouge to turn the depression, making sure to leave a spigot in the top of the blank (see Fig. 5).

Then insert a drill chuck with a 1/2" bit into the tailstock (see Fig. 6). Turn on the lathe and slowly advance the drill bit into the wood. I usually drill to approximately 4" and mark the bit with a small piece of masking tape to indicate the correct depth. If you plan to use a glass insert, make sure the hole depth and diameter are the same as the glass insert. Remove the work from the chuck and remove the base glue block.

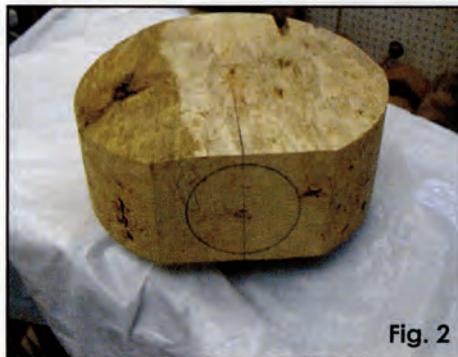
## TURNING THE BODY

Mount the block of wood with the side glue block in a 4-jawed chuck (see Fig. 7). Set the lathe to a slow speed. Turn it on to check for wobble and to see that the mounting is secure. Once satisfied, adjust the speed to a higher RPM for turning.

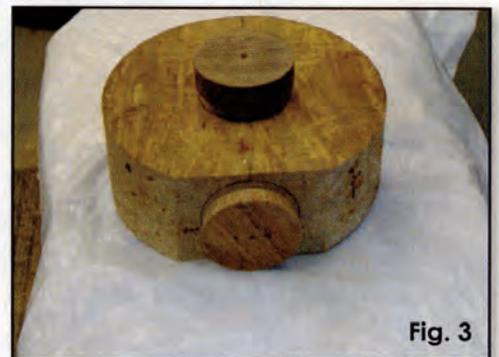
True up the disc by removing material from the outer edge until you have a continuous circle. Then start working down the right side from the top to start forming the disc shape. It should taper from the rounded outer edge to around 2" to 2-1/2" in the center. I don't use exact measurements but focus more on the flow of the shape, and



Maple burl blank prepared for turning.



Blank with the centers marked for attaching the glue blocks.



Blank with both glue blocks attached.



Blank mounted in a 4-jawed chuck ready to turn the center depression.



Depression turned at the top.



Drilling the hole.



Fig. 7

Blank mounted on the side glue block in preparation to turn the side profile.



Fig. 8

Turn the opposing side as close to the glue block as possible.



Fig. 9

Vase mounted in the vacuum chuck to finish the turning process.

try to achieve a smooth arc from the outside edge to the center.

Shape the outside surface (the side opposite the waste block) to its final shape, shaping it as close as you can to the glue block. Make sure that both sides are symmetrical and that there is an equal distance between left and right sides of the vase to the hole in the depression (see Fig. 8).

Remove the disc vase from the chuck and remove the side glue block. Mount the disc vase in a vacuum chuck with the unfinished side out (see Fig. 9). Turn on the vacuum and check the gauge, making sure that you have a high reading to ensure a good grip. (If you don't have a vacuum chuck, you can power/hand sand the glue block side to match the other side of the disc. This is how I did it before I built my vacuum chuck.) Turn on the lathe and finish turning the disc vase.

## SANDING

With the disc still mounted in the vacuum chuck, begin to power sand the vase. I start with 120 grit and work up to 400 grit. (See the article on power sanding in the Summer 2004 issue of *Woodturning Design*.) Turn off the lathe and vacuum, and reverse mount the disc to power sand the

other side. You will have to sand the depression as the recess curves both ways.

## FINISH

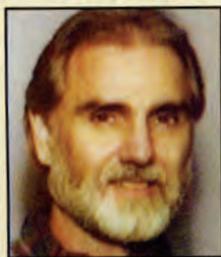
I finish these disc vases with my favorite finish, which is urethane oil. It is a penetrating oil finish that is applied and wiped dry to build up a deep sheen. I apply three coats, letting it dry for 12 to 24 hours between each coat. Once the finish is dry, insert some dried flowers, weeds, or live flowers into the vase, and enjoy the beauty.

Using this basic design for a disc vase, many variations are possible. One of mine is shown in Fig. 10.



Fig. 10

A variation on the theme.



## William Roy Yarger

William Roy Yarger started woodworking at an early age under the watchful eye of his father, Royden, an accomplished woodworker in his own right. He continued woodworking as a hobby, this included kitchen and home remodeling regularly required by his family because of their many moves. Recently retiring after 30 years with IBM, he hopes to devote the rest of his artistic life to woodturning.

William started woodturning in 1992 and after initial attempts were less than desirable, he joined the local AAW chapter to hone his skills. He has attended Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts, numerous AAW symposiums, and local AAW chapter symposiums. William is a member of the Georgia Association of Woodturners and the American Association of Woodturners. He teaches at Woodcraft and in his Marietta studio. His work is focused on utilizing woods that are native to North America. He designs and shapes his forms with the intent of giving the tree new life.

William's work is available at art shows in the southeast, online at [www.turnedart.com](http://www.turnedart.com), and at Heaven Blue Rose in Roswell, Georgia ([www.heavenbluerose.com](http://www.heavenbluerose.com)). He welcomes your questions and comments and can be contacted either by sending a SASE to 3044 Canton Hills Court, Marietta, Georgia 30062 or by e-mail at [yarger@bellsouth.net](mailto:yarger@bellsouth.net).