Buckeye

WOODWORKERS & WOODTURNERS 1992

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS 1986

Contains April 2021 Minutes

May 2021

NO MEMBERS OR VISITORS SHALL ENTER OR EXIT THE CAMP VIA THE CHRISTMAN ROAD ENTRANCE. MEMBERS MUST ENTER AND EXIT FROM MT.PLEASANT ROAD.

BUCKEYE WOODWORKERS
AND WOODTURNERS
March 13th, 2021

Anyone wishing to submit pictures for the newsletter please send them to the editor within two days of the meeting

*****Note*****

Buckeye Woodturners Meeting
ZOOM online meeting
April 10, 2021

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Stransky

The April 10, 2021 meeting of the Buckeye Woodworkers and Woodturners was held via Zoom video conferencing. Ron Tomasch hosted the meeting with Brent Wells assisting. There were more than 30 members signed in for the meeting. Today's demonstrator is club member Ron Tomasch. Ron will demonstrate making a mini baseball hat.
George Barlow welcomed all to today's meeting. Before Ron started his presentation, George announced that Dirk Falther had sent a short survey about the annual Doll Lumber picnic and a couple of hands-on classes that Jack Boggio would be holding if there was enough interest, to all members via email. Please take a few short minutes to complete the survey if you haven't already done so.
Brent Wells announced that upcoming demonstrations are as follows:

- May 8 – Pat Carrol, professional turner from Ireland demonstrating 2-piece hollow forms
- June 12 – Tentative Doll Lumber picnic and wood sale
- July 10 – Jeff Hornung, texturing tools and their use
- August 14 – TENTATIVE auction date – pending Camp Y-Noah approval

Mark Stransky announced that Bill Marble was the winner of this month's BWWT Newsletter "Did You Read It" challenge. Bill will receive a Hartville Hardware $20 gift card. There were 4 members who read the newsletter and responded to Mark Stransky with the key word. As a recap, this is how it works: the first dues paying member to see a keyword buried somewhere in the newsletter and emails back to Mark Stransky that they have found it and *where in the newsletter it was*, will win a Hartville Hardware gift card. The new keyword for this newsletter is "learn". Please keep in mind that the keyword used in the previous sentence doesn't count as a winning entry.

Turning a Mini Hat
Ron Tomasch
April 10, 2021

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Stransky

Ron started out his demonstration with a short history on some of the people who started making wood hats. Ron has been making turned wood hats of various styles for about 5 years. Ron has taken classes on making hats from woodturning hat makers Johannes Michelson and Chris Ramsey. He heartily recommends taking a class from Chris Ramsey (mainly because Chris lives in northern Kentucky as opposed to Johannes who lives in Vermont) for anyone interested in making wood hats.
On a side note, I rely primarily on our recorded videos to do the write up and include any images of each demonstration. Due to some technical difficulties with the video recording, I was not able to take advantage of the video this month. Instead of reporting on Ron's demonstration I am including in this month's newsletter a write up on hat making that Ron was kind enough to provide. There are also many You Tube videos available that describe turning a variety of wooden

hats. Again, I apologize for not being able to provide a complete description of Ron's actual demonstration.

Turning a Mini Hat

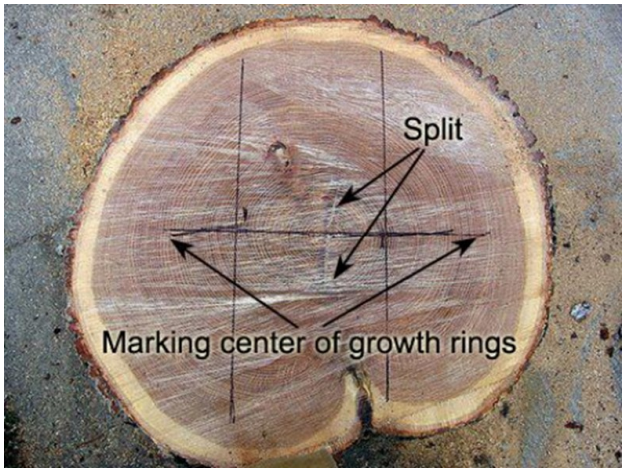
The mini hat can be a bi-product of the full-size hat. The wood used for a mini hat comes from either a cored piece from inside the cap section of the full-size hat or a tree with a minimum diameter of 10 inches. A mini hat is turned from fresh cut or "green" wood only. The mini hats sell incredibly well and are a wonderful item to add to your product line. They make wonderful conversation pieces for turners and collectors alike. Nearly all of the steps used to turn a full-size hat are incorporated in the turning of a mini hat. The turning is basically the same but on a smaller scale.

Design

There are several styles of mini hats including the cowboy, outback, derby, top hat, 10-gallon cowboy hat, sunhat, fishing hat and ball cap. There are variations to all of the styles. This literature will feature the mini cowboy and outback styles.

Wood

When using a branch or small tree, select a section that is a minimum of 10 inches in diameter and cut a section of the branch 8 inches long. Cut the section in half in the same direction of the small split in the center of the branch. This will give you two mini hat blanks. Each blank will need to be a minimum of 4 inches tall. You will need to stay away from the pith or center of the tree by about 1 1/2 inches to keep the hat from splitting when placed in the bender and under side-to-side pressure to make the hat bend. See figure.



Score a line from pith to pith on the end grain and transfer the line to the flat surface. Put the point of a compass in the middle of the line and draw a circle 8 inches in diameter. See figures below.

The corners of the blank can be removed on the lathe or with a chainsaw and the blank can be cone shaped prior to mounting on the lathe if preferred. See figure below.

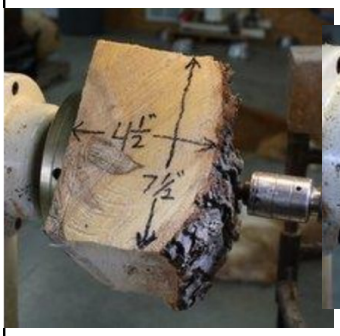
Tools

- ½" bowl gouge
- ⅜" bowl gouge
- ¼" mini gouge
- 8" calipers
- Moffet light or a Gary Sanders light system or both.

Step 1

Rough in the blank. Mount a faceplate on the lathe. Put the flat side of the blank against the faceplate and center the blank using the circle previously drawn as a reference to center the blank. Bring up the tailstock and secure blank in place with pressure between centers. See figure next page.

Round the blank and cut a small tenon on the top of the blank so it can be gripped by a chuck. See figure below-right.



Remove the faceplate, mount the chuck on the headstock and mount the blank in the chuck using the tenon you have created. Turn the bottom of the blank flat and cut a 2 ½" mortise in the center so it can be held in the chuck. See figure below left.

Remove the blank, turn it around and re-mount it with the bottom of the blank held by the chuck in the mortise you have created. (If you are using a previously cored blank you will start here.) See figure below-right.

Step 2 Turn the outside shape

The outside shape of the hat will be turned first. True up the blank on the bottom and side. The diameter for a mini hat brim is 7" to 7 1/4" inches. Turn the blank to a diameter of 7 or 7 ¼ inches.

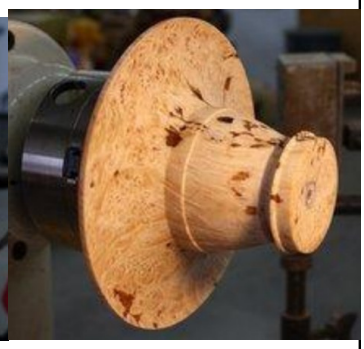
Set your outside calipers to 3⅛ inch.

Measure from the bottom of the blank toward the top of the hat ½ to ¾ of an inch and mark with a pencil. This will be the brim and the fall of the brim from the bottom of the cap and hat band to the bottom of the brim.

Remove all material on the cap section of the hat leaving it 3⅛ inch diameter.

Measure from the top of the brim where the brim meets the cap section of the hat up toward the top of the hat 2 inches and make a pencil mark. This will be the height of the cap section of the hat. Be sure to leave ½ to ¾ inch material above the top of the hat so it can be held in a chuck when hollowed.
The hatband will be ⅜ inch tall. Move up ⅜ inch from the top of the brim and make a mark. The hatband will be 1/16 inch thicker than the hat. See figures below.

Turn the outside profile shape of the hat stopping at the top of the hatband. This can be straight or have a gentle ogee shape from the top of the hat to the hat band. The top of the hat will have a small curve inward leaving no sharp corners and leaving a tenon above the top of the hat.
Now turn the profile shape of the brim of the hat. For the brim, remove material from the outer edge of the brim to 1 inch inward and flat then from there incorporate a gentle curve upward to the bottom of the hat band. After the outside shape has been established true up the tenon and bring the tailstock up to create a live center mark for alignment after hollowing. See figures below.



Step 3 Hollowing the hat

Now the hat can be hollowed using light as a gauge and calipers to verify thickness. Remove the hat from the chuck, turn the hat around and place the tenon end in the chuck so it is held by the top of the hat. See figure on right.

Hollow from the outside toward the inside only matching the outside shape until a thickness of ⅛ inch is achieved.

Hollow the brim first and once the brim thickness is satisfactory, begin hollowing the cap section of the hat. Stay a minimum of 1/8 of an inch to the inside of the darker area as the cap is hollowed. Continue hollowing to the top as you follow the outside shape of the hat to ⅛ inch thick consistent wall thickness.

The shape of the top of the hat can vary greatly. The top can be flat, dished inward, bulging outward or have a detail like the Stetson "Gambler" style hat.

After turning the detail in the inside top of the hat, the excess "free" water can be blown out with an air hose to expedite the drying so it can be sanded.

Sand the hat (while wet) with 120, 180 and 220 grit sandpaper. The inside of the cap will have to be sanded by hand then learn the brim can be power-sanded. After sanding with 220 grit brush on a coat of lacquer and let the lacquer dry.

Step 4 Turn the top of hat detail and sand the hat

Mount the lighted jam chuck in the chuck and make sure it is turning true. Turn on LED lights and place the hat over the jam chuck and align using the existing live center mark. When properly aligned bring up tailstock for support. See figure below-left.

Remove excess material turning the top of the hat to 1/8 inch thickness leaving a nub in the center of the hat for support from the tailstock. The center of hat becomes flexible and light will begin to shine through as material is removed. See figure above-right.

Sand the outside of the hat (with the exception of the top of the hat) with 120, 180 and 220 grit sandpaper.

Step 5 Burnishing the hatband

Place the tool rest up close to the hatband and apply padauk (end grain only) to the band as shown.

Apply ebony (end grain only) to the band to give the padauk a "trimmed" look. This gives the appearance of an attached hatband. See figure below.

Step 6 Sand the top of the hat

Turn off the nub in the middle of the top of the hat, remove tailstock and sand the top of the hat with 120, 180 and 220 grits.

Apply a brush on coat of lacquer, let lacquer dry.

Step 7 Bending the mini hat

Place the hat in a mini bender. Unlike the full-size hats, the mini hats can withstand quite a bit of pressure in the bender. See figure below-left.

The grain must run parallel with the direction of the bend. The front of the hat and the back of the hat must be end grain sides or the hat will not bend properly and will crack.

Apply a fair amount of pressure by tightening the bender. Put 1 rubber band across the brim on the cowboy hat to aid in the extreme bending of the western style. See figure above-right.

For the outback hat, place it in the bender and apply a fair amount of pressure. Put brim benders on the front of the brim and apply one rubber band to pull the front of the hat down. Put one rubber band across the brim to bend the sides upward a bit. See figures below.

Allow the hat rest in the bender with a fair amount of pressure for the first 10 to 12 hours.
After a minimum of 10 hours then the bender can be tightened substantially.
Place a heat lamp with a 75-watt bulb about 6 inches over the top of the hat in the bender.
Within a few hours the hat will be bent to shape but will continue to shrink for the next 15 to 20 hours. See figure below.

Step 8 Final hand sanding and finishing

After the hat has been in the bender for a minimum of two days it can be removed from the bender and sanded with 220 grit. Sand the inside and the outside with 220 but DO NOT SAND THE HATBAND. The color from the burnishing can easily be sanded off. The band will have a texture to it created by the burnishing process that makes the band look like a different material.
Apply a finish directly after the hat has been removed from the bender and has been sanded. If moisture is introduced through humidity, it can cause the hat to slightly lose some of the bend. This is why it is important to get a finish on it after sanding.
I use a catalyzed sanding sealer and apply a minimum of three coats of sealer then apply one coat of catalyzed lacquer to finish the mini hats.
Ron's demonstration today was very informative for making a mini hat. The baseball hat had a few similar steps as described here. If anyone has any questions about making turned wood hats, Ron can be contacted at ron@ijustmakestuff.com.

SAFETY NOTE
Be sure to use proper safety equipment including eye, hearing and breathing protection whenever you are working on projects in your workshop. Make sure that you fully understand and follow the safe operating procedures for every piece of equipment that you use.

Calendar of Events

PLEASE NOTE
BWWT MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH BEGINNING AT 9:00AM

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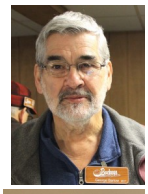
BWWT Library Online Guide brought to you by the BWWT Club Librarians, Dirk Falther and Bob Hasenyager.
The online guide lists the books and videos that are available in our club library along with descriptions on the subject matter and other useful information. Follow the link below to check it out.

http://uh.cx/uVS1S

BWWT OFFICERS FOR 2021



President
George Barlow
330-277-6055
gwbjr80@gmail.com

Vice President
Marshall Holmes
330-309-1212
mlholmes@neo.rr.com

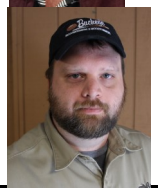
Secretary
Mark Stransky
330-283-1375
mastran@neo.rr.com

Treasurer /Member Admin.
Dirk Falther
330-310-4570
dfalther3@att.net

Librarian
Bob Hasenyager
330-334-8314
bobhasenyager@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor
Keith Bellamy
330-221-2845
akbellamy@gmail.com

Club Advisor
Jack Boggio
330-696-0791
jkbogi@twc.com



Past President
Brent Wells
330-606-6724
thegrumpywoodchuck@gmail.com