



Contains April 2007 Minutes

May 2007



Larry McCardel demonstrated turning platters at the April meet

By Jerry Schaible

Larry McCardel indicated that when starting any project on the lathe, one should check out the equipment to make sure that the machine is safe and all tools are sharp. One of the most important items to check is the smooth operation of the machine. One should wax the bed ways with a paraffin wax to make the tool rest move in an easy fashion. He should also file of any nicks in the tool rest with a mill file. Any deviation from a smooth surface will be transferred to the wood project. Make sure that all tools are sharp and in good condition.

All wood stock that is used for turning platters has to be free from defects or checks.

The wood blanks also need to be absolutely dry to prevent as much movement of wood grain as possible. In spite of this attempt, wood will warp slightly while being turned, due to the release of stress in the blank as material is being removed. Platter material should be at least 4/4 thick. The thicker the wood blanks are, the greater the possibility of a more dramatic piece.

Thicker material also provides more turning options in platter design and greater character. Any wood blank over 18" provides an unwieldy platter with increased complications. Anything over this dimension is generally used for a table center piece and filled with other craft items, thereby taking away from the turned effort and dramatic grain structure.

He discussed the cutting of a log to harvest material for platters. He indicated that one can cut down the center of the log to make two halves. Then make another cut parallel to that near the rounded bark side. This would provide a nice half log section where bowl blanks could be harvested.

Larry emphasized that one should look at the grain structure of the wood blank to find the most interesting part and try to incorporate this into the piece. He located the center of the piece by using a straight edge on a square blank and drawing lines from corner to corner and then making a small depression where they meet. This could be accomplished by using a plywood disc with

a center hole for marking. The center point could be offset if the grain pattern is more conducive. Once the center point was located, a compass or disc is used to draw a circle to establish the outer circumference of the platter. A bandsaw is used to cut the blank to shape. The discarded corners could be used later for bottle stoppers, birdhouse ornaments, pull knobs, pens, or finials.

In mounting the platter blank, there are several ways in which this could be done. One is to use faceplates and long screws drilled into the wood. Another method is to



use a waste block and glue it to the blank and then insert screws through a faceplate into the waste block. This will be turned away in the process of making the platter. Another method is to use a screw chuck that is mounted into the scroll chuck. Here one must be careful to not drill too deep or you would go through the bottom and destroy the blank. If the screw is too long, then you can use a small plywood disc to shim out the threads, but you would need to make sure that this had sufficient holding power to keep the blank in position and prevent it from being thrown off the lathe. Another method is to use a 4 prong drive chuck in the head stock and a revolving center in the tailstock and hold the blank between centers. A final method would be to use a Forstner bit and drill a hole of sufficient size for the scroll chuck jaws to fit into. The purpose of any of these methods

is to hold the platter in position to turn the bottom of the piece in providing a base to touch the table, a dovetail recess in the bottom for the jaws to hold in place while turning the interior top, and completing the lower part of the rim.

Using a bowl gouge, Larry used a pull cut from the center out to take thin shavings from the bottom of the piece. The purpose of this was to true up the piece and make it level before giving shape to the lower side. At this point, one should make a drawing of what he would like the piece to look like. In this step, you will need to incorporate a dovetail recess for the scroll chuck jaws to hold the piece when it is reversed. You will also need to create a small foot at the base to lift the piece off the table. And you will need to turn a flange or underside of the rim as a finger hold when the platter is picked up. This flange shape could be a very nice Roman Ogee design with slight curves. When turning the base, you will need a small flat area in which to sign the piece when completed. Small beads and coves made with a small round scraper, could accompany this flat area for heightened interest. Any lines may be cut into the bottom with a parting tool on edge. The rule of thumb here is that the fancy grain patterns need simple shapes as compared straight grained material which might need more fancy lines to augment the grain patterns. Larry turned the platter base so that it was about 1/2 the diameter of the piece and then inserted the dovetail recess inside of that base ring. The foot was about 3/16" thick to provide a visual lift to the piece. The dovetail recess was approximately 3/16" deep for the jaws to grip. The bottom should be completely finished at this point with all tool marks removed and a complete sanding of all the lower areas, grooves, beads and coves. Sanding should be done through the grits until you reach 600 grit. Any sanding marks that are left will be accentuated when finish is ap-

plied. Take a final look at the bottom to insure that you are satisfied with finished shape.

Turn the platter around on the scroll chuck and begin to turn the edge decoration with a bowl gouge. This decoration should be decided ahead of time and a drawing made to insure final results. The first step in turning this side is to true up the outer rim as well as the whole top side of the platter. As you turn the top of the piece, you should do the rim first and leave the bulk of the center of the platter for support. As you turn away the middle of the platter, you will relieve some of the stresses in the wood and that may make the platter rim wobble or shift slightly, particularly if the platter is of large diameter. It would be preferable to have the outer rim slant slightly to the interior of the piece. You need to concentrate in making a good transition from the rim to the center of the platter.

There needs to be a relatively flat center of the platter to show off the grain patterns. Any high spots in the platter can be detected by using a 6 inch steel rule placed along the bottom. High spots can be turned away using the Ray Key platter scraper. At this point, one may use a random orbital sander to flatten the bottom. The lathe should be turned on slowly and the sander touching the platter at right angles to the direction of the lathe. Continue to scrape or sand until the bottom is completely flat. Sand the interior to 600 grit for a final surface finish application.

To put a finish coat on the completely turned surface of the platter, Larry will wipe all sanding dust from the piece. He then will take a very close look to make sure that all sanding marks have been eliminated. He will use a gel varnish finish and rub the piece down to have only a thin coat remaining. He will let it dry overnight and then sand lightly between coats. He will

add a second and third coat of gel varnish and let each have an overnight dry period. There are some woodturners that will add a fourth and fifth coat. All additional coats of varnish will be thin coats. He recommended that you should be very aware of any heavy spots that might occur and make sure that they will be wiped off. To allow that to remain will cause difficulty for the following coats. You will have to sand that area smooth and then apply additional coats of varnish to bring it up to the proper sheen. When the final coat has dried for several nights, then he will use the Beall buffing system to bring out the final shine and surface sheen. He will have one buffing with brown Tripoli, a second buffing of white diamond, and then an application of a paste wax until is glazed over in about 15 minutes and then a wax buffing to bring out the gloss appearance.

Thank you Larry for an outstanding demonstration on turning platters.



Jerry Schaible



Curly Maple Hollow Form



Ball Point Pens

Dennis Taylor



3 Stooges

Ben Fix



Bird Feeder

Bill Bettiker



Bird House

Don Karr



Bird Houses



Bird Feeders

Ralph Kubal



Buckeye Bowl



Maple Platter w/ Seashell

Walter Nicholson



Lid Box



Larry McCardel



More Boxes



Calendar of Events

The May meeting at Y-Noah Saturday May 19th

Finishes - Types and Techniques will be the subject for the club meeting on May 19th.

The project for the month for May will be plates and platters. The Turn and Learn from 1:00 to 4:00 will also be plates and platters

The June meeting will be at Doll Lumber. Mark Rinehart has provided a map and directions to the Doll Lumber Co. for that Meeting. See page 8.

Thanks Mark

The Ohio Valley Symposium will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio again this year. Members are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible since there will be limited participation. The dates for the symposium will be Oct. 12- 14, 2007.

There are plans being made to have a field trip to the **Warther Carving Museum** in the coming months. Stay tuned for further information on this great opportunity

The photos on pages 4 and 5, as well as one at the end of the demo article are courtesy of Gordon Seto. I also want to thank Gordon for his considerable help in working out some problems with this months news letter. Thanks Gordon for another great job.

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PRESIDENTS SOAPBOX

May 2007

Items of Interest

June 16 – Meeting will be held at Doll Lumber – Tour & Lunch (Bring lawn chairs)

The Y-NOAH hands-on workshops for campers will begin on June 20th. It is not too early to sign up to help. We are looking for both experienced turners and those willing to help with setup, cleanup, photography and class monitoring.

July 21 – Club Auction – Start collecting items to donate

September 15 – Professional turner Jim Burrows will be featured at regular meeting

September 16 – Club social/picnic at Sand Run Park

October 20 – King Heiple from North Coast club will be demonstrating

Safety

Thoughts from Keith Rowley in his book Woodturning – A Foundation Course

Five Laws of Turning

- 1. The speed of the lathe must be compatible with the size, weight and length of wood to be turned. Always start your lathe with the speed set as low as possible and increase as needed.**
- 2. The tool must be on the rest before the whirling wood is engaged and must remain so whenever the tool is in contact with the wood.**
- 3. The bevel (grinding angle) of the cutting tool (as opposed to the scraping**

tool) must rub the wood behind the cut.
4. The only part of the tool that should be in contact with the wood is that part of the tool that is receiving direct support from the tool rest.

5. Always cut “downhill” or with the grain whenever possible.

Scrapers, when used in a scraping mode (not shear-scraping) must be kept perfectly flat on the tool rest and presented in the “trailing “ mode with the tool rest set at center or slightly above center and with the tool handle higher than the tool edge.

Safety, It's Something You Can Live With

Doll Lumber Directions from Interstate 77



Written Directions from I-77:

- 4) Basically, get on **I-77**. Go either North or South so that you can get on I-76 East.
 - 6) Merge onto **I-76** and take it **EAST** towards Youngstown.
 - 7) Take exit **38B RIGHT** towards **Ravenna**.
 - 8) Merge onto **SR-5 North**
 - 9) Bear **Right** (north) onto **Oh-44 / Oh-5**
 - 10) Turn **LEFT** (north) onto **SR-534 / Miller Ave**
- END) **Arrive** at Doll Lumber 1363 State Route 534, Southington, OH. 44470.

BUCKEYE WOOD WORKERS AND WOODTURNERS

April 21, 2007

Pres. Ben Fix opened the regular meeting of BWWT by welcoming all members and guests. There were 54 people in attendance. He requested that all members sign in on the attendance sheet that was being circulated.

Pres. Fix also requested that anyone that wishes to sign up for the May Turn and Learn session should do so. The turned project will be sent out over our website at www.bwwt.org.

Ben also indicated that our annual club auction will be held in July and we need members to look through their shops and donate woodworking items that they no longer use. Those items may be a valuable help to others. All proceeds from this auction will be deposited in the club treasury. The auction will take place in the pavilion, which is located across the lake from our current meeting location. There will be a short business meeting and then the auction will take place. Don Karr mentioned that people that will be on vacation should be able to bring their items earlier in the month and stored for the big sale.

There will be a tour of Doll Lumber in June. It will include a tour of the mill as well as a safety demonstration on the use of a chain saw. The club will sponsor a picnic after the regular meeting and tour are complete. Lumber will be available for sale if anyone is interested.

Our website manager, John Adams, as well as Mark Rinehart and Dave Floyd have been working on our website divisions. Members were urged to look at our gallery of photos on turned projects. We should also check out our bylaws, as they

are now posted on the website.

Don Karr, our librarian, mentioned that we should check out some books from our library and use them to our advantage and then return them the following month. The new cabinets will be available in May. They are being put together by Bill Seabolt. Anyone wishing to donate books to our library should see Don. Magazine should be brought to the club auction for the donation process.

The demonstration committee, consisting of Ralph Kubal, Hoby Horn, Gordon Seto, has been contacting some demonstrators to see if they are available for our club meetings in the near future. Nothing has been established at this time.

Dave Floyd, our newsletter editor, has requested that he needs members to write articles on woodturning and submit them to him. He also is needing ideas and tips to include in the newsletter. They are to use Microsoft Word to format the document and send to Dave.

Gordon Seto indicated that a photo tent has been purchased for \$55.80, including shipping. This will be used to photo all the turned projects that have been brought to the Show and Tell tables. Members should check out our gallery on the website for past projects that have been submitted.

The grant money from AAW has been received and will be spent to purchase tools and face masks for our club. A total of ten sets of tools and face masks will be purchased.

This should be done in the coming weeks.

The YMCA woodturning project for the 13 to 15 year old youths will be planned for Wednesday evenings in June from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. There will be seven ses-

sions for the youth and a beginning session for the counselors. A total of ten 7mm. pen mandrels have been purchased by the club as well as 90 pen kits. The first session with the counselors will be used for giving them pen making experience. Then they in turn may be helping at the youth sessions in June and July. Photos will be taken for local news outlets and some will be sent to AAW for their observation.

The sign boards are being completed and a few more months will be needed for a final effort of production. These will be given to the YMCA management for distribution to their various offices. These will hold memos and display sheets of their upcoming programs.

George Raeder introduced a program currently being put on by Wayne Center for the Arts, which is located in Wooster, Ohio. They currently own a school house near the center of the Wooster business district. We have been invited to participate in a juried woodturning show to be held in June and July of 2008. We currently are in the preliminary planning stages of this event. Stephanie Pevec is the Education and Exhibition Coordinator for the Wayne Center for the Arts. This juried show will be open to members from Buckeye, Northcoast, and the woodturning club from Columbus. Each club would gather member entries up to 3 turned objects per member. A panel will jury the entries and those that are chosen must deliver their objects to the show. There will be small fee of \$10 to \$20 to enter each project. Money will also be given out to the entrants as prize money for the show categories as well as best of show. The artwork will be available for sale if so desired, however a 20% fee will go to the Art Center. The Wayne Center will be able to handle between 60 to 100 turned objects. The Center will provide all the advertising

and sales transactions. They expect approximately 500 visitors to attend this event. This show has been in operation for approximately ten years. A show of hands resulted 11 members from Buckeye Woodturners as being interested in providing pieces to be juried by the commission.

The bylaws adjustments and amendments were submitted to the membership for their observation. These adjustments have been drafted from the AAW Best Practices policy located on their website. One amendment dealt with the identification of the four officers in the club, Pres., V. Pres, Sec., and Treas., and the length of their term. The Pres. serves for one year and the V. Pres. serves for one year and then ascends to the position of Pres. the following year. This is meant to give consistency to the office. The Sec. and Treas. are voted on for a term of one year. The Pres. with the approval of other BWWT officers and the Advisory Board may appoint a general member or associate member to fill any vacant office. A motion was made to accept the bylaws as written on our website and these amendments and that motion was seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Another amendment dealing with dispersal of club assets in the event of club dissolution, will be written and submitted to the membership for their consideration.

Respectfully submitted
Jerry Schaible, Sec.