



Contains Mar 2008 Minutes

April 2008

***George Raeder discussed proper tool usage and turning technique at the March BWWT meeting at Camp Y-NOAH***



George Raeder began his presentation with a discussion of woodturning tools and the various kinds that are available. He stated that all woodturners should become familiar with what the tools are and what they are meant to be used for. He indicated that the reason different tools are made is that they function better for certain applications rather than others. However, he did say that there is no one way to do anything in woodturning. Woodturners, with their intuitive minds have found other uses and applications for their tools rather than the conventional thought. He did indicate that there is a fundamental premise that all woodturners should recognize and that is to present their tool so as to cut down hill on the fibers or direction of grain lines. This is

to insure that a fine smooth cut will result and a dig - in or catch will not happen. To identify the use of various tools to complete a common woodturning technique, showed an array of tools that could be used to rough out a cylinder from a four sided blank or bole between centers. He displayed a roughing gouge, scraper, spindle gouge, bowl gouge and skew to be used in turning a 4 sided blank into a round cylinder. When he used the roughing gouge, he got a very rough finish, although the wood chips really did fly and it turned down the corners very quickly. Next in using the scraper, he got a finer cut but had a lot of tear out that would have to be sanded away later. When he used the bowl gouge or spindle gouge, he got a very fast cutting action as well as a fairly smooth surface, particularly when using the side grind of a swept back design on the gouge. This could be achieved by dropping the handle significantly and letting a shear cutting action take place on the wood blank. He got his finest cut when using the skew. He laid the skew on its side and allowed the cuts to be made with the lower 1/3 edge of the blade near the heel of the cutting edge. This also gave him a very smooth glass like surface that needed very little sanding. He emphasized that one could use several of these tools to complete the turned down cylinder. For example, one could start with the roughing gouge and then move to the spindle gouge and follow up lastly with the skew for a really smooth surface.

George indicated that there were principally four ways to remove wood from any blank. The first would be to cut the wood blank with the grain running parallel to the bed, as indicated above and recognizing that several tools could be used for the best looking surface cut.

The second would be to cut off the end grain from the cylinder with a parting action. When cutting end grain on a cylinder, one can use a parting tool, however the fibers are broken off with this cutting action. Another option that George identified, would be to use a skew and shear off the end grain and get a very fine smooth sur-



face.

This could be accomplished by using the skew in a toe down position and extended into the end grain of the piece. The skew is inserted into the end grain with a slightly upward motion and then rolled downward toward the center of the cylinder. This presentation requires that the side grind of the skew must be in line with or parallel to the end of the cylinder, in order to get a straight cut. Any other angle would result in a skating action of the skew on the piece. Another option here would be to use a spindle gouge and take an inside/out cut on the end grain. This would result in a

very fine cut also.

The third way in which to cut a wood blank would be to have an insertion into the end grain to drill a hole or cut the interior of a box. Here one would use a bedan or square end scraper to cut the fibers into the end grain. Some woodturners use a scraper for this type of action. In all cases there should be a 5 to 10 degree downward presentation of the tool over the tool rest. This is to provide a margin of safety to the wood blank. If the tool is presented in a level or upward angle, it is very easy to get a serious catch and the tool will dig deeply into the wood. With a downward presentation, it will not dig into the wood but simply swing away into air.

The last option would be for mounting a bowl blank on a face plate or scroll chuck with the grain running opposite the lathe bed and turn a bowl. This option would cause one to turn a bowl with side grain and end grain considerations. This would result in having a very smooth cut on one side of the bowl and then a rough and possibly tear out occurring on other sides of the bowl. This is also a difficult situation to solve when even going into the interior of the bowl when the grain direction changes as one goes deeper into the bowl and then having to take into consideration the angle of the tool bevel used near the top of the bowl, then deep into the bottom with the grain direction constantly changing direction. This can be remedied with a lot of sanding or changing the bevel angle on the lathe tools. George mentioned that there are some woodturners that have two bowl gouges and they are ground differently to solve the cutting action presented by this dilemma or quandary. End grain tear out is a major problem in bowl turning. On the exterior of the piece, one can use a push cut and start on the inside of the bottom and push to the outside of the bowl surface with a bowl gouge. The second option would be using a pull cut. Here one

would use the side grind on a bowl gouge and start from the bottom center and pull the tool toward you. You would lower the handle significantly and get a very sharp shear cutting action, which would yield a very smooth surface. One can also turn the bowl gouge way over and get some very fine shavings which are the result of a smooth surface.



On the interior of the bowl, some of the worst tear out can occur along the sides of the bowl. One should be careful when entering the cut at the upper rim, since run out can be a problem. The rotation of the bowl blank can result in a centrifugal force that will throw the tool to the outside and result in a gouge or catch. This can be remedied by starting carefully with the spindle gouge in order to get a small area where the bevel can ride comfortably. One should realign the tool so that the vertical edge of the tool tip is slicing and not scraping. Once a bevel has a place to ride, then the rest of the cut can be made. Del Stubbs likes to take a path that is sort of upward in nature at the beginning of the cut and then readjusts to a downward path to the center of the bowl. As the bowl interior nears completion, it may be necessary

to invoke the use of the second bowl gouge mentioned above. One gouge could have a bevel of 40 degrees to cut the side wall and another gouge with a 20 degree bevel. Some woodturners like to use as heavy scraper and tilt sideways at an angle of 45 degrees to get a very smooth cut. Again, this would be a shearing action.

A scraper should be used below the center line of the piece, so that if a catch occurs, the tool tip will swing away from the wood bowl blank. The scraper should be sharpened at an angle of about 10 degrees. Sometimes George likes to sharpen his scrapers in an upside down fashion to get a better burr on the edge.

George has a final word of wisdom and that when using any tool, always think about what the edge is doing.

Thank you George for a very enlightening discussion.

Respectfully submitted  
Jerry Schaible, sec.





## Calendar of Events

**The April meeting will be held at Camp Y-Noah on Saturday April 19th**

**April Demo, Featuring Joe Hermann, Editor of Wood Turning Design.** Joe will build a wall hanging coat rack using both flat work and turning skills.

**May Demo,** Professional Turner and instructor **Dave Hout** will provide an all day demo. Lunch will be available at a nominal charge.

**June,** Field trip being planed.

**July, Our annual auction.** Start putting aside those unneeded items now for the auction! This is our main fund raiser for the year.

**Wayne Arts Center** in Wooster, wood turning show July 11 thru August 22.



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BUCKEYE WOODWORKERS  
AND WOODTURNERS  
March 15, 2008

The regular meeting of Buckeye Woodworkers and Woodturners was called to order by President Phil Brower. Approximately six visitors were recorded as being at the meeting. Pres. Brower welcomed all who attended and desired that they have a good time at the meeting and visit with old woodturning friends.

Pres. Brower mentioned several events that have appeared on the woodturning scene. He indicated that Don Geiger will be the demonstrating at a woodturning event in New York State. The brochures were located on the information table for those who were interested. He also stated that new members should sign up for the Hartville Tool Discount program. He indicated that members would be able to get 20% off on all woodturning items in their tool catalog. Tool catalogs were available on the information table.

Pres. Brower mentioned that tool steel would be available for sale from V.P. James Brown. The cost of these HSS 1/4 x 1/4 x 8" bars are \$5 per bar. Some individuals had ordered these during previous meetings and had not picked up their orders. Pres. Brower had ordered another 20 steel bars and they sold out during the meeting. If anyone would like more of these bars, they should contact the president and let him know of their interest in order that another purchase can be made.

The president encouraged members to keep up with club activities by looking at our website of [bwwt.org](http://bwwt.org) to bring up our club home page. Listed there, one will find the upcoming activities that we have planned and they can make arrangements to their personal schedules in order to take part. Just recently included are some woodworker resources that have approximately 100 projects available. New things are being added all the time.

Raffle tickets are being offered for sale by VP Jim Brown for 3 for \$5. Many items have been donated by Hartville Hardware for the raffle table. Pres. Brower encouraged the members to

look through their shops and bring items that they don't need and bring them to the club raffle. Members should have some exotic pieces of wood that they are not needing at the moment and they could make some other woodturner happy by their donation.

Next month, on April 19th, our club will sponsor a demonstration by Joe Herrmann from Jefferson, Ohio. He will be showing us how to make a hanging coat rack. He is the current editor of Woodturning Design, an outstanding national publication on woodturning.

The treasurer has indicated that all yearly dues are to be paid this month to remain a member in good standing with the club. Vice President Brown is available to take your contribution. It was also mentioned that individuals can purchase the tool steel for \$5.

Approximately 10 more VCR tapes on woodturning and woodworking have been donated by Leslie Smith. He has made several major donations over the last several months of VCR tapes. These certainly will be helpful to our members in the years to come.

Demonstration Committee chairman, Ben Fix, stated that the next several months have been planned by the committee. He did indicate that he needed members help for the future demonstrations. He will be passing out a list of topics at the April meeting for members to indicate their preference to demonstrations that they would like to see. This will include some local demonstrators as well as some nationally known educators on woodturning. Members will be asked to list their topics and ideas that they prefer. Ben will report back when he compiles the lists.

Ben also asked that members should sign up for helping out the Camp YNoah Auction. We have been asked by Nathan, the Camp Director, to make some small turned items that he can place in a larger basket and then have that whole basket auctioned off to the members of the YMCA. The turned items that were suggested were pens, screwdrivers, bottle stoppers, and some bowls and platters. This has been tried at other camps and found to be a

successful money raising project for their campers. The money will go to paying for the young campers that do not have money for the camping tuition and would not be able to attend any camp functions. The above mentioned items should be submitted at the May meeting.

Ben would also like members to sign up for the YNoah Youth Program. This is to be held on Wednesday nights during the summer months, beginning in June and running through August. Typically we would be teaching the members to turn pens and flower pots for their own personal use. This has been a very rewarding program during the past summer.

Ray Muniak, from North Coast Woodturners, visited with us to inform our members about the upcoming woodturning show at the Wayne Arts Center, in Wooster, Ohio. He indicated that the woodturning show will be held from July 11 to Aug. 22. He stated that there was a conflict in the minds of the steering committee in that they did not see where members of North Coast and Buckeye Woodturners should be charged an entrance fee for each of their projects. So he stated that current members will not be required to pay for any entry fee, but all non-members would be charged a \$5 fee to enter their project. There will be seven categories which will include, bowls, platters, boxes or enclosed pieces, vessels, spindle turning, sculpture, and segmented turnings. A vessel has been defined as any piece whose opening is less than 1/4 the diameter of the vessel. Any larger opening will be considered a bowl. All pieces are to be brought to the June 21 meeting of BWWT. Projects will be registered and placed in the appropriate category. All pieces will be given a number, the same number will be applied to the packaging material and the box it came in. Those pieces will be judged at the Wayne Arts Center and pieces that did not qualify for the show will be returned the same day in the same box and wrapped and protected by the same packaging material with proper tracking numbers attached. Any piece that you have ever done can be submitted for this judging. In the following years, the pieces that can be judged must have been made in the year of the show.

Webmaster John Adams was introduced and it was emphasized that he has done an excellent job in constructing the website. We thanked him for his efforts.

President Brower indicated that more items were needed for the showcase in the dining hall of Camp YNoah. This cabinet belongs to BWWT, but we also fill it with our turned items to show visitors what can be done with wood.

Raffle tickets will be sold at the end of the meeting. A Turn and Learn session will follow the regular meeting where small boxes will be completed. This meeting was adjourned so that the demonstration could begin with George Raeder describing the proper way to apply the tool edge to the spinning wood.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jerry Schaible, Sec.