



Contains May 2008 Minutes

June 2008



Dave Hout presented a very interesting full day demonstration on Bowl and Spindle Turning at the May meeting.

Dave Hout taught woodworking at an early stage in his career at Coventry HS, in Coventry, Ohio. Dave was instrumental in establishing two woodturning clubs in Northeast Ohio. The first one that he established was Northcoast Woodturners and it was headquartered at Coventry HS. The Northcoast woodturners moved in the mid 1980's to Cleveland Ohio and Dave found it imperative to establish a second woodturning club back in Summit Co. Ohio. He was the impetus in the establishment of Buckeye Woodworkers and Woodturners. Dave does not woodturn everyday but simply would like the time to do so. He maintains that woodturning should be for fun. Dave

does not make a living at standing at the lathe every day and therefore be a production turner. He emphasized that one should be involved in woodturning because it is fun.

Bowl Turning

Dave began with a bowl blank that was cut from a poplar log several days prior to the demonstration. He indicated that 95% of the what he turns is green wood from fresh cut trees. He indicated that it is fine to make platters out of dry wood. The reasoning there is that platters are usually wide in diameter and if the wood was wet, there would be a lot of warping of the wood and it would present a piece that would be seriously out of balance or twisted out of shape. Anything thicker than 2 inches would probably split and crack during the drying process. Therefore to make a bowl, it would be impossible to find a dry piece of wood thick enough without cracks. Hence, he uses wet wood to turn all his bowls. Thicker wood will have moisture drying faster out of end grain than the side grain or the interior of the blank. Therefore with the endgrain drying out faster than the rest of the blank, shrinkage will occur on the ends and the resultant stress will crack or check the end grain section. The interior moisture simply cannot escape due to the bulk of the blank and therefore it will crack. Some woodturners will rough turn their bowl blanks to a profile that is about 1 inch thick throughout the piece, and then they will let

it dry for several months. The bowl will have dried to a slightly oval shape due to the end grain and side grain orientation. Then they will remount it on the lathe and return it to the desired shape. The bowl can be turned to a concentric form and then finished for presentation. Other turners will turn the wet bowl blank to between 3/8" to 1/4" thickness throughout the piece and then just let it dry naturally. This completed bowl will be slightly oval because of the natural drying process. Some wood-turners will wax the end grain of a freshly cut piece and it will slow down the escaping moisture. It is advisable that you do not put this near a heat source or it will dry to quickly and split the piece. Some individuals will put their freshly cut blanks in a paper bag or even several bags and then put it in their moist basement for the drying process.

When cutting a bowl blank on the band-saw, one should always put the flat surface on the bandsaw table so that the piece has support through out the cut. Never cut a bowl blank with the rounded side down. This will cause a serious downward pressure where the blade enters the blank. This will cause the bowl blank to spin in a downwards motion and will break the blade. The curved side of the bowl blank should always be up on the bandsaw. One can cut a plywood circle and use a nail in the center to mount it in the bowl blank. Then cut around the circle and the bowl blank will be round. Not using the circle guide will result in an oblong cut around the bowl blank. Using paper plates will work for this, but then one is limited to the size of the plate. Dave issued a word of caution here in stating that the bandsaw is the most dangerous tool in the shop. One should always be on guard for all safety steps.

Dave always starts the turning process of a bowl between centers. He uses this

method so that if there needs to be a change made to eliminate a blemish or include a nice grain feature, he is able to remount it easily and return the blank. To use a Forstner bit in the top of the bowl blank in order to mount it in a scroll chuck would eliminate any chance of making a change later on. Once the hole is drilled, it is virtually impossible to change the mounting of the blank to include any other features that were discovered later. Dave said that he turns his bowl blanks between centers all the time. He indicated that it is very safe and stable. He pointed out that, in turning the exterior of the bowl, one should never use a roughing gouge to get rid of excess wood. The reason for this is that there are too many unsupported areas of the tool and one will get a serious catch in the wood.

Bowl gouges came around in the late 1970's, as a new tool. He said that the geometry of the tool allows for more complete tool support on the tool rest. The first step in turning a bowl is to turn any offset bowl blank to a round shape. The speed of the lathe is very important when turning an out of round bowl blank. One should begin at a very slow speed and proceed carefully. Dave gave a formula for the lathe speed. The diameter of the bowl blank times the RPM of the lathe should fall between 6000 and 9000. One should be closer to 6000 when the bowl blank is out of round and closer to 9000 when it is in a balanced format. In stating earlier that the bandsaw is the most dangerous tool in the shop, he also issued this warning, that one can get the most personal damage from a bowl flying off the lathe. Again, be aware of all safety measures. One should use both hands when turning for a safer experience. He should also turn away the pith or center of the tree because it is the most unstable part of the wood. It will crack if left in the bowl.

Dave recommends that one should grind a bowl gouge so that it has a 3/4" side grind

bevel. Longer fingernail grinds are in vogue at the moment but it takes a lot of grinding to achieve that type of grind and then is rarely used in the turning process. David Ellsworth uses a long side grind but he turns a lot of end grain bowls, so the long side grind is used on the side grain of the vessel and works well for him. Dave also suggested that we use a 40 deg. bevel on the lathe as a starting point. He did emphasize that one should find a bevel on the gouge that is comfortable for him due to a large part because of his height. He indicated that some hand tools of yesteryear have bevels of 25 degrees, like hand planes, and they cut just fine. He said that most of us use a 40 deg. bevel but then skew the gouge so that it cuts with ease.

In the first step of removing wood from the bowl blank, one should remove the cambium layer of wood, just under the bark. It will be very soft and not secure when you put it in the scroll chuck. Remove wood in small light passes to prevent large flying chunks of bark. If you cut the exterior of the bowl and get some tear-out, then one should not take as aggressive steps on the cuts. Dave recommends that one should take cuts from the base of the bowl to the upper rim or lip of the bowl. Dave suggests that you take a cut with the handle of the tool trailing the cutting edge. This will give very nice thin curls of chips from the bowl blank. The technique here would be a thin slow pass along the exterior to achieve these long, fine, and thin shavings. When turning the tool on its left side and approaching the wood, it will mimic the skew when cutting a spindle. If the handle moves even or ahead of the cutting edge, it will not cut as clean. Support the tool cut with hands and arms in close proximity to your body. This will provide stability to the cutting action. Make a tenon on the bottom of the bowl so that it will fit your scroll chuck. You should not

use an expansion technique with the chuck at this time. It is rather dangerous when the wood is wet and also soft. It might not hold. One should also cut a small shoulder at the top of the tenon. This is for the face of the jaws to seat appropriately and provide extra stability. Otherwise the jaws will have only one place for secure contact to the bowl bottom.



In the above photo Dave shows Larry McCardel how to use the side of a bowl gouge to cut a fine shaving and tame unruly end grain. Several of us tried it!

When the bowl blank has been turned to a satisfactory design and artistic shape, then reverse the bowl blank and insert it into the chuck, with the tenon being gripped with the compression feature of the chuck. Use the tailstock to support and center up the bowl blank. It adds additional support, particularly to remove uneven surfaces at the top rim.

The chuck may need to be retightened several times throughout the turning process, to secure the jaws. One should sketch a profile on a piece of paper and then turn the bowl to that design. There are many theories on design, but Dave has found that if you are pleased and like the shape then it is fine. Different turners have different theories as to what is appropriate

to artistic designs and shapes. After reversing the bowl, one should true up the exterior of the piece, because it may be slightly out of round at this time. Then place the tool on its side on the tool rest and true up the top of the bowl from the rim to the live center. Keep the tailstock in place for stability. Begin cutting into the interior of the bowl to remove some of the wood. There will be a center peg that will begin to form. Keep this in position with the tailstock for stability. When you can no longer move the tool handle in the appropriate position as you turn the interior, then it will be necessary to remove the tailstock and also turn away the center peg that is left.

Continue cutting out the interior of the bowl, using a planing cut. Leave the bulk of the wood in the bottom in order to keep the walls of the bowl stable. Establish the wall thickness at the rim first. The thickness should be 3/8 to 1/4 inch in thickness to prevent cracking in the drying process. The bowl will warp but it will not crack. Use a bowl gouge to cut the interior. Some turners use a spindle gouge with a very blunt bevel on the front to turn the interior. Lay the tool on its side with the open end at 3 o'clock. Move the tool handle around as you cut across the bottom of the bowl. If chatter occurs along the bottom, then move the handle further along to the left. Some turners like to polish the bevel on the back of the gouge so that it will not leave a white ring in the bottom of the bowl. Sometimes the bevel is sharp as it comes off the grinder and it will cut a trailing mark from the heel of the bevel into the interior of the bowl. Use a hand stone to take away this rough edge. There is a soft composite wheel that one can purchase for mounting on your grinder that will take care of this problem nicely.

Spindle Turning

Basically, there are only three shapes that a woodturner uses when spindle turning.

They are the bead, cove, and the straight lines. These may be elongated or narrowed to provide different profiles. Actually the exterior of a bowl is nothing but a big bead. Making a cove on a spindle is like turning the interior of a bowl. Dave indicated that nothing is better for muscle memory than spindle turning. When turning off corners of a square blank, one should use several cuts along the side of the spindle blank. This is to prevent a serious chipout of wood. Ash and oak are prone to chip heavily along grain lines. Lay the spindle gouge on its side and slowly lift the handle until it begins to cut. Keep the bevel of the tool perpendicular to the spinning of the wood or the line between the centers. You will have the most control at this point. Rotate or roll the tool and lift and it will make a very nice shoulder with a clean cut. Use a 1/4" gouge to make a nice bead and get into tight places. You make the bead by starting in the center of the bead and sweep or roll the tool in both directions. You make the cove the same way with starting at both ends and cut downhill on the cove and meet in the middle of the cove.

When using the skew, make short jab cuts with the toe of the skew to prevent chipout along the blank. Make a shoulder. Use the heel of the skew to clean up the shoulder.

You can also use the heel of the skew to make a nice transition from the square blank to the round tenon. Dave indicated that you generally do not sand spindles because you will lose some of the fine detail of your turning. One can use the home-made 1/4" skew to roll the beads. This tool is small enough to get in tight places. Just roll and raise the handle to get the tool to cut. You cannot make a cove with a skew. One will need a small gouge for this purpose.

Dave also issued some thoughts on practicing your techniques. He stated that one

should not make a lot of practice cuts of beads and coves on old wood. Make something useful and you will take a lot more care in making the projects. In making projects of choice, turners will push the limits to make nicer things with unique detail.

In dealing with catches in spindle turning, Dave indicated that it was basically of two types. The first is a spiral cut along the spindle tenon. This is caused by cutting with the heel of the skew and the bevel is not rubbing against the wood. The second type is when the woodturner is cutting to far up to the point or toe of the skew and the under side of the skew is unsupported. It will slam the tool down on the tool rest to seek its level of support. At this point the toe will dig into the wood and cause a very big chipout. The remedy here is to not cut any higher than 1/2 the distance from the heel to the toe of the skew. The toe end is unsupported and it will cause the problem.

A curved skew is being sold now and it is a little more forgiving when used correctly. There is the geometry of two curved surfaces meeting and it is more user friendly with this combination.

Respectfully submitted
Jerry Schaible, Sec.

The following is reprinted from the AAW April Board Message.

Frank Amigo's April 2008 Board Message

The Love and Lure of Wood Turning

I have been turning since the mid-seventies, and one of the most common things I have heard from other turners is that they have taken a class, whether formal or with a turner that they know, and are now hooked on turning. This is an expression I too have used. I hooked myself and drove it deeper after seeing John Jordan demonstrate and even more so after taking a class at Arrowmont with Michael O'Donnell. I taught two basic courses a semester at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts from September 1990 until I moved to New Mexico in 2000. Most of my students claimed to be hooked on turning and joined our local chapter, the Chesapeake Woodturners. These same people fed our master classes and had the chance to study with David Ellsworth, Al Stirt, John Jordan, Bonnie Klein, Johannes Michelsen, Michele Holzapfel, and Michael Peterson, among others. Talk about being hooked after that!

The popularity of wood turning is obvious to most members of the American Association of Woodturners, an organization that has grown from a handful of members to over 13,000 in just twenty years. My first chapter, the Chesapeake Woodturners has split three times in its short 18 years and is still a large chapter. As a very successful craft, wood turning continues to draw people. I used to say that it was the perfect American craft in that it gave almost instant gratification. When doing a wood-working project, it is sometimes months between the drawing and having something approaching a finished product, but put a hunk of wood on the lathe, and you can have a finished piece in under two hours.

This was not the reason I was drawn to, and fell in love with, our craft. As hobbies, I first practiced wood-working, then lapidary and silver-smithing, and then wood carving. In lapidary and silver-smithing no one would show you how to do anything unless you took a formal class, and there were still a lot of secrets that were never shared. In carving, I was helping a friend who owned an antique store. I replaced carvings that were broken or missing. No one would share their secrets on repair or finishing. I went to some AAW sponsored functions, and there were people like David Ellsworth and John Jordan showing folks all of their techniques. The openness of turners is the greatest lure of our craft, that and their friendliness.

We talk about the American Woodturner, the Resource Directory, and the symposiums as the reasons for joining the AAW. They are good reasons, but the best is the brother and sisterhood, friendliness and sharing. Ask any member.

Calendar of Events

Take Note!
Special Location for the June Meeting. A map can be seen on page 10 of this newsletter.

The June meeting will be held at Doll Lumber Co. on Saturday June 21st with lunch being served off the grill.

A lathe Demo is also planned!

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. More information on this is included in the minutes beginning on page 8.

Tools For Sale

PC Pancake Compressor, low hours, like new, \$60.00. Contact Bill Seabolt at 330-517-7070

Wanted to buy

small chuck for a mini lathe 1" 8tpi. Contact Dave Floyd at 330-821-9919 or email dfloyd@neo.rr.com

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**BUCKEYE WOODWORKERS
AND WOODTURNERS
May, 17, 2008**

The regular meeting of Buckeye Woodworkers and Woodturners was called to order by Pres. Phil Brower at 9:30 AM on May 17, 2008. Approximately 50 members were present for the meeting. On the first order of business, Phil mentioned that he had received a letter from the AAW which indicated that Phil Brennion from Arizona had become a quadriplegic. He is the past president of AAW and resides in Arizona. AAW is sponsoring a raffle of numerous prizes of which first place would be a Powermatic lathe, like the one that the club owns. Tickets are selling for \$5 per ticket or 5 tickets for \$20. Other denominations are available. Please contact Phil Brower if you are interested in purchasing any. The executive committee decided to purchase \$100 in tickets for the club and all proceeds / prizes would belong to BWWT.

The Camp Y Noah Silent Auction was postponed until the fall of 2008. Members are to turn in their turned items throughout the summer so that we can make a large donation of gifts at one time. Your turned items can be turned in at the regular meetings until the August meeting.

The Hartville Tool catalog sale of 20% discount on all purchased items is still an ongoing activity for all members of BWWT. Your purchases have to be ordered over the phone and then they will be available for pickup or mailed to your house, per your request. Members were encouraged to take advantage of this offer.

Pres. Brower indicated that BWWT needed someone to sign up for VP for the 2009 season. Let Phil know and he will submit your name to the nominating committee. In accordance to the bylaws, the VP will ascend to the presidency the following

year.

The Wooster Art Show will be held later this summer. Any member that wishes his turned pieces to be entered into this show, needs to pick up a number from George Raeder today. The number will be affixed to the bottom of the turned piece and to the box and packing materials that came in the box. The seven categories that the turned items can be entered in, are as follows: platters, vessels, lidded boxes and containers, bowls, spindle turning, segmented turning, and sculpture/ misc. pieces. All submission forms need to be filled out with no more than two entries per category. All pieces must be signed by the turner and submitted in the boxes. Pack all pieces prior to turning it in.

All pieces will be repacked by the committee after the selection is made. If the piece is for sale, indicate the price on the form. All turned items need to be turned in by the June regular meeting at Doll Lumber Co. All information and forms are available at our website of BWWT.org.

Bill Blasic indicated that he has an opportunity to purchase 5 lathes with a shipping discount. The lathe is a JET 1220 VS. If 5 people make a purchase of this lathe at \$475 per lathe and shipped to one location, there will be no shipping charge. He indicated that they had 4 people at this time and were looking for a 5th member to complete this purchase. See Bill if you are interested.

The next regular meeting will be held at Doll Lumber Co. in Southington, Ohio. There will be a demo on the lathe as well as a cookout for all members. There will be a map submitted to our website so everyone will know how to get there.

VP Jim Brown indicated that the showcase in the dining hall needs more items to show. The summer campers and their families will

be visiting in the coming months and it is nice to show off the work of our club. There will be some woodworking tools available in the showcase to demonstrate what is needed to make these items. See Jim if you have anything that you would like to add.

Lou Mineweaser, our treasurer, gave us a financial report and also indicated that he had some patches available for our shirts and hats. He also indicated that we had a new member from the Wadsworth area.

John Dilling, membership chairman, indicated that we have 103 members currently enrolled in our club. He stated that he had to remove 40 members, based on unpaid dues and non renewals.

Dave Floyd, newsletter editor, stated that the newsletter was completed later than usual this month. It was do to tech problems with our website. He thinks that the problems have been corrected and there should not be a problem next month.

The Demo Committee representative, Bill Seabolt, stated that we have completed the survey that was taken last month. He said that it was very helpful to the committee to know what the requests were of the membership. He said that there were 42 responses to the demonstration suggestions. He said that demonstration topics were spread out to include platters, bowls, boxes, piercing or surfacing, and any topic of choice. The membership also requested half day demos for club members and all day sessions for professional turners with national exposure. The membership indicated that they were interested in having a frequency of two professional turners per year.

Ben Fix, demonstration representative, indicated that we are already planning for the 2009 season to hire professional demon-

strators. He stated that we are up against the booking calendars of current demonstrators and the time slots for our regular meetings.

He said that it is important to get some lead time to hire these demonstrators into our format and topics of choice. A motion from Phil Brower was requested for the appropriation of \$3000 for the pro demonstrators for 2009. A motion was made and seconded that \$3000 should be set aside for the hiring of professional demonstrators in the 2009 sessions. The motion passed and was approved by unanimous voice vote.

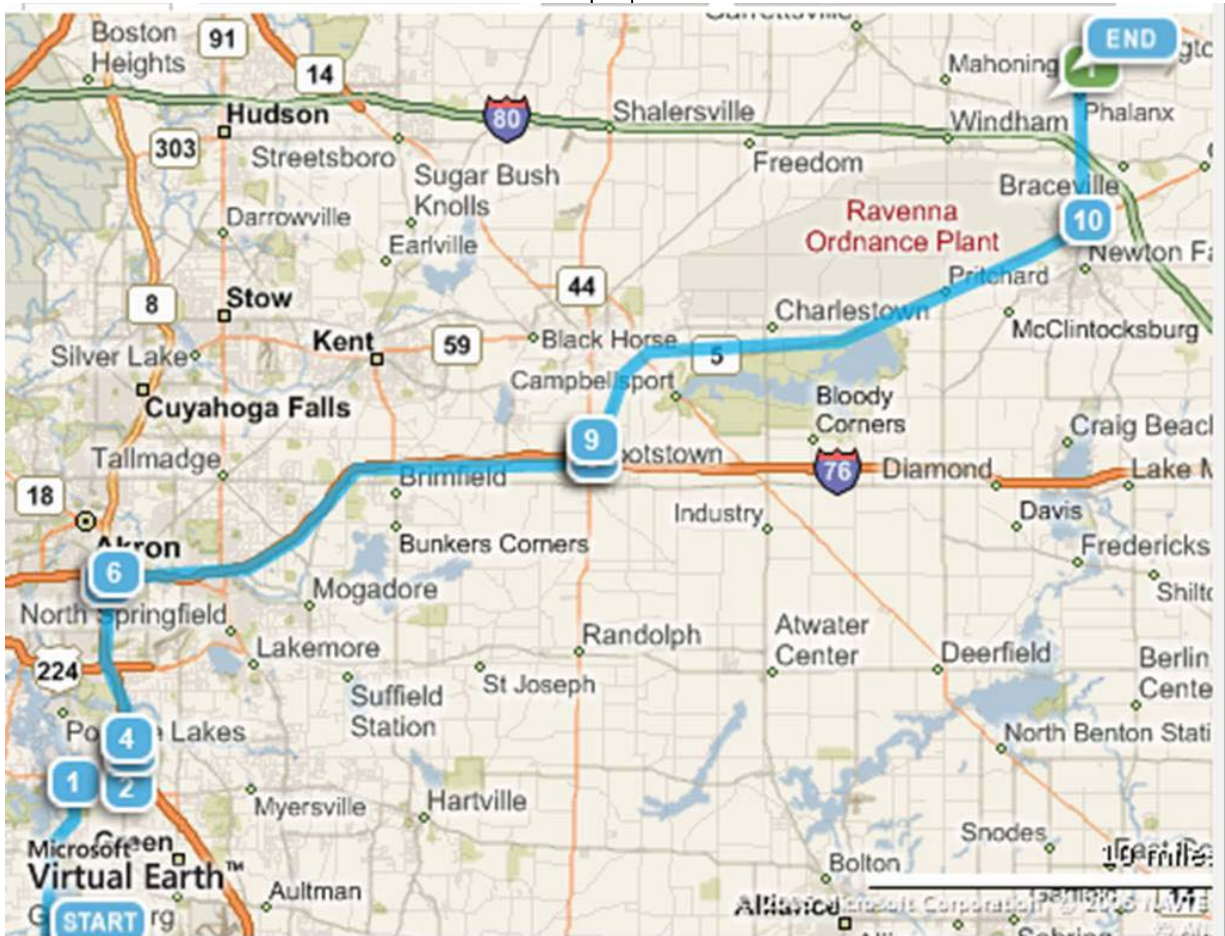
Camp YNoah summer camp demonstrations will begin on June 12 and continue through August. These will be every Wednesday evening from 7 to 9 pm. Ben Fix indicated that we need at least 12 mentors each week to help set up and take down the equipment. These 12 mentors will also teach the young campers how to turn a flower pot and ball point pen. There will also be a clean up time necessary at the conclusion of the meeting.

Most mentors arrive around 4 pm to begin the set up process. There is usually a picnic lunch prepared by the cooks from the Y Noah kitchen staff to supplement our dining needs. We have always been appreciative of their handywork.

The meeting adjourned in preparation for the demo by Dave Hout.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Schaible, Sec.

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.