



Contains March 2009 Minutes

April 2009



***Methods of Holding Wood on the Lathe
By Ben Fix, demonstrator
March 21, 2009***

Ben indicated that woodworking has been around for a very long time. He stated that there is evidence to suggest that woodturning was being used in Egypt since 1300 BC. In that time, they had string or rope powered lathes to rotate the wood while it was being turned. When the Industrial Revolution came into being, the lathes were powered by other sources for ease of operation. In some cases, they had water powered lathes where the turned power shaft was powered by water over a large sectioned water wheel. The powered rotating shaft drove a series of flat belts that powered overhead drive shafts that in turn supplied belted power to each piece of woodworking equipment. Later, electric motors were used for the power source. In the metal working equipment, scroll chucks

were used for about 200 years before someone invented a scroll chuck for woodturning. That development occurred around the 1980's. This became a tremendous asset for holding wood on the lathe, and eliminated the use of the tailstock for holding the wood in place. The use of a tailstock provided a barrier for complete access of turning the bowl bottoms.

Ben gave a brief description of how one cuts a log segment into two halves by cutting through the center or pith area to create a bowl blank. By having a half log, one is able to lay it flat on the bandsaw table and cut a round blank for turning on the lathe. Ben showed the use of small plywood circles that can be attached to the rounded section of the log and used as a guide when cutting on the bandsaw. He emphasized the use of the plywood discs so that one can get a very true circle cut on the saw. Otherwise one might be cutting an oblong bowl blank and lose some of the wood material that might be crucial to the finished turned bowl design.

Ben described the use of face plates, which come with the lathe, for bowl turning. He described how in the early days of woodturning, that 6 inch faceplates were commonly used but that dictated the bowl bottoms to be at least 6 inches in diameter and very unattractive as an art piece. It also posed a problem in that the screw holes were still remaining in the under side of the bowl which were dis-

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quised in several ways. In more modern times, the faceplates have been approximately 3 inches in diameter and have resulted in smaller bowl bottoms with a more appealing shape to the eye.

He went on to stress that one should leave the small tenon on the bowl bottom so that one can use the tailstock imprint to re-center the piece when needed. In traditional bowl turning, one turns the exterior profile first and then uses the interior hollowing technique with a bowl gouge to match the exterior profile. Finally the bottom is turned to the desired diameter and shape. If glue blocks were used, they were glued to the bottom of the bowl blank and then faceplates were screwed to the waste block. Later when the bottom is turned, this waste block is turned away and sacrificed. Waste blocks proved to be cumbersome in bowl turning.

Ben indicated that face plates are the safest method of holding a wood blank on the lathe. They can hold wet wood in a satisfactory manner. They also can hold the heavier bowl blanks in a safe manner. Ben recommended that one should use No. 14 sheet metal screws when holding the faceplate in position. They have wider threads that have better gripping power in wood and in particular when turning wet wood. He stated that one should not use drywall screws, deck screws, or regular wood screws. For various reasons, they have limitations and faults that are not safe for faceplate mounting.

When mounting the bowl blank on the lathe, there is a safe speed which one should use. Ben suggested the use of a formula to help determine the safe speed. He suggested that one multiply the RPM of the lathe X the diameter of the blank. He suggests that the number should come out between 6000 and 9000. This is merely a number that is used to determine the safe speed in RPM's. If there is chatter or vibration present, then one

should reduce the speed of the lathe until the sound disappears. Then using light cuts, one can begin to round the exterior of the bowl blank.

When the use of scroll chucks entered the woodturning environment, there were many advantages supplied to the woodturner. The use of the scroll chuck made woodturning bowls faster and more flexible in design. Now bowls could be made with a two or three step process. The Hoby Horn method of two step bowl turning came into existence. In this method, he would use a Forstner bit to drill a small recess into the top of the bowl blank. Then he would mount it on the lathe, and with the tailstock in position, he would shape the exterior of the bowl. Then his last step before removing the chuck would be to turn a small recess into the bottom and decorate the bottom to satisfy his creative design. The whole exterior and bottom could be sanded to his preference and even finished right on the lathe. When the exterior process was complete, then Hoby would turn the bowl around and mount it into the recess in the bowl bottom. Then he would hollow out the interior, sand to preference, and finish the interior of the bowl to his satisfaction. Using this method, one can complete the bowl in two steps with the use of the scroll chuck.

Another method to hold the bowl blank would be to use a worm screw that is usually supplied with the scroll chuck. This worm screw usually has wide and sharp threads to cut into the wood. Then the exterior and bottom is turned to satisfaction and then reversed in the chuck to complete the interior, similar to the method above.

Ben indicated that when turning the foot of a bowl, the foot should be from 1/3 to 2/5 the diameter of the top of the bowl. When turning a platter, one should have a foot that is between 1/3 to 2/3 the diameter of the platter. This is used for the stability and artistic

nature of the piece.

Another method of turning the bottom is to place the top rim of the bowl into a jamb chuck. This means that one needs a waste piece of wood that is larger than the diameter of the finished bowl. Cut a recess into the waste block that is the diameter of the bowl. Insert the bowl into the recess and use tape to hold in position. Bring up the tailstock for security and turn the bottom. Leave the small remaining nub in position and remove the bowl from the jamb chuck. Cut off the nub with a sharp knife or a chisel, and finish sand the bottom.

Another method is to use an annular ring resembles a donut. This mounting has a hole in the center that has a soft covering of foam or weather stripping seal. Then the bowl is placed on the waste board and the annular ring is placed over the exterior of the bowl and onto the waste board with four bolts that hold it in place. Bring up the tailstock to center the piece and use it until the last cuts are made in the bottom of the bowl foot. A nub could be left if desired and cut off later.

Photo below shows a bowl holding jig using annular rings connected by bolts.

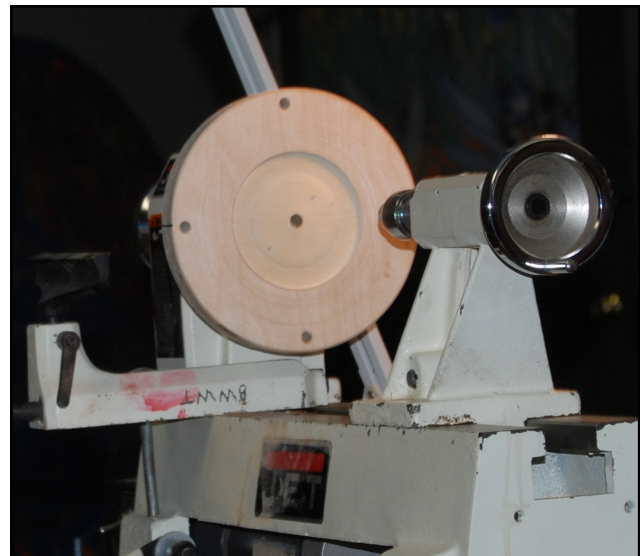


Another adaptation of this method is to use a plastic pipe coupling and cover it with fake chamois. Glue the PVC pipe mounting over a turned wood blank with a recess. This could be used in a scroll chuck or with a captured nut in the wood backing, it could be screwed onto the threaded headstock.

Vacuum chucking could be used to hold the bowl in position until the bottom is cut. This can be done by the use of a vacuum pump or the use of compressed air blowing across an orifice or venturi, following the Bernoli principle.. This later process is now available from Dave Hout Enterprises. Many woodworkers usually have a air compressor in their shop and this could easily be hooked up to the vacuum. It was noted that vacuum pumps are also available from Harbor Freight or possibly finding a used one on the open market from a surplus dealer in Nebraska. Vacuum chucks are available from Dave Hout or can be made from 3" or 4" PVC coupling. Also, there are some chucks that can be made from glued up plywood layers and then centering a captured nut for fixing to the lathe headstock.

Respectfully submitted
Jerry Schaible, Sec.

The photo below shows only the base of the annular ring jig



BUCKEYE WOODWORKERS
AND WOODTURNERS
March 21, 2009

The BWWT meeting was called to order by VP Bill Stone. He recognized a long time member, Les Smith, who was visiting us. Bill also recognized 3 new members and 3 visitors to the club. In total, there were 76 people in attendance at the meeting. This has been the highest attendance that our senior club members can remember.

VP Bill Stone called our attention to the new Craftsman drill press that was purchased within the last month. This will be a bench mounted model for use by members of BWWT, also during demonstrations to prepare wood for our Turn and Learn sessions and during the summer youth Turn and Learn sessions for Camp Y Noah. Bill noted that this club purchase will be a tremendous asset to our members when preparing wood blanks for the lathe.

Pres. Jim Brown was present for the meeting but was in ill health. We are all wishing him a speedy recovery during the Spring months.

BWWT had applied for a grant from AAW to buy some audio visual equipment to enhance our demonstration programs. We were notified that our grant application was not accepted. It was discovered that there had been an excessive number of grant applications and limited funds from AAW. We were encouraged to apply again in the following year when applications again will be accepted.

Phil Brower pointed out that there will be a tool sharpening demonstration after the regular meeting today. Members were encouraged to bring their tools in for sharpening and learn how to sharpen their own tools.

The April demonstration will be put on by Howard Lorson. He will demonstrate how to make spinning tops with a holder and string powered top. There will also be a Turn and Learn session after the regular meeting. The topic for the session will be Elementary Bowl Turning. Members who wish to participate in this activity are to email or call Ben Fix in order to put their names on the

student listing. There is a usual charge for wood and supplies which will be donated to the club treasury.

In May, Hobby Horn will demonstrate how to make a box with long thin finials. Also, there will be a group going to the Warther Carving museum to view the work of Mooney Warther. There will be a lunch provided and the cost will be \$25 for the lunch and entrance to the museum. The group will leave at approximately 11:30 AM in order to get there for our scheduled appearance.

The Doll Lumber field trip will be held again in June. It will be located at their saw mill for an enhanced tour of their facilities. They will also have an ample amount of wood on display for our consumption. The Doll representatives will be putting on a chainsaw demonstration for our edification. A picnic will be held during the lunch time activities. A donation will be accepted with the proceeds going to our treasury to help cover the cost of food items.

Our July session will be our annual club auction of materials and wood that members donate to the club. This is a tremendous success and everyone has a great time. Plan to bring in some unused items that are in your shop so that others can bid on the treasures. All money will be placed in the club treasury.

A pen turning session will be rescheduled for August.

Bill reminded us that more people need to bring in their turned projects for the Show and Tell table. The membership certainly likes to view the work of other woodturners and learn from the viewing.

Bill made note of the number of items on the raffle table that came from Hartville Hardware. Each month they make a donation for our table.

Hartville Tool has a club discount that amounts to 15% off the ticketed items. Members are to call ahead and place their orders and then can pick them up to save shipping or have them shipped to their residences for their convenience. Members were cautioned that they had to be a member of BWWT in order to get this discount.

Bill Seabolt reminded the members that 2009 dues are \$20 and must be paid. We currently have approximately 130 members. There are still 40 people that owe dues. He reminded everyone that coffee and donuts and coffee are 50 cents per item BWWT shirts are available for member purchase. We need an order of 6 shirts before an order can be sent in. Long sleeve shirts sell for \$27 in the normal sizes and higher for the larger or tall mens shirts. T-shirts are also available for summer wear and they are running at \$10 for the regular sizes. Bill also mentioned that he does have applications for new members to sign up for membership.

Bill Seabolt also recognized Jerry Schaible, secretary of BWWT for many years of service to the organization. He was given a gift certificate to a local steak house in appreciation for his longevity of participation as a club officer.

Bill Seabolt will be taking payments for the Cindy Drozda symposium which will be held in the fall of 2009. These payments are for a hands on activity for Sunday and Monday. The Sunday session is for 8 beginning turners and the Monday session will be for 10 of the more experienced woodturners. Please see Bill if you would like to be included in the two different sessions.

Our website now has new links available for our resource information. Please check site often because this is our only method of communication.

Larry McCardel discussed the woodturning program for the Wayne Co. Center for the Arts. The show this year will be from July 10 to August 29. Members who wish to have their pieces judged in this contest should submit them by July 3 or the June BWWT meeting. There will be 7 categories for placement of the turned pieces. The pieces will be independently judged by a panel of judges from the art forum of local colleges. All work must have been completed within the last year.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Schaible

Calendar of Events

The April meeting will be at camp Y-NOAH on Saturday the 18th at 9:30 am

The April demonstration will be Howard Lorson on making stringed tops

Future demos as scheduled

May.....Ben Fix on turned tops and toys....and a trip to the Warther Carving Museum.

June.....Field trip to Doll Lumber, plus demonstration on bowls.

July.....Annual club auction

August.....Professional woodturner

Sept.....Professional woodturner,

Cindy Drozda from Colorado

Oct. and Nov. ..To be announced

Dec.....Annual Christmas Dinner

We will visit the Warther Carving Museum for a Hobo lunch and tour after our regular meeting on May 16th ,2009. The lunch will begin at 12:30 with tour following. Wives and or significant others are invited for what promises to be a very interesting and educational display. Cost for lunch and the tour is \$24.95 per person. Plan to Attend!

The Cindy Drozda demonstration will be held in Sept. 2009. There will be one day of club demonstrations by her, as well as two days of hands on activities. One of those days will be a beginner hands on while the second day will be for intermediate skill based turners. The cost will be \$100 per day for each individual. There will be no cost to members for the club demonstration on Sat. She is able to accommodate 6 to 8 members per hands on days. Members are to see Bill if they wish to participate in this activity. He is willing to take partial payment through out the year in order to pay for the \$100 tuition. Members can go to www.cindydrozda.com to see her work.

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