



Contains August 2009 Minutes

September 2009



Bob Taylor presented a Pen Turning demonstration at the August BWWT meeting. Above, Bob shows an extensive set of drill bits he purchased at Harbor Freight.

Bob Taylor began his discussion of pen turning by identifying the type of material that he uses for making the pen blanks. He said that his first choice when he started turning pens was to use wood. He said that much of that is available and for a very modest price or possibly free if one is able to make the right contacts. The wood blanks can be cut from boards of select woods or even from cut offs from other projects. These smaller pieces make great pens and probably have some nice figure. He said that he tries not to use straight grained wood since there is very little character in it. He likes the twisted and unique grained woods for interesting highlights after finish has been applied. This type of wood can be found near knots in wood or even in crotch material from branch joints if it is cut properly. Exotic woods can be used for varying amounts of character and unusual wood designs. He indicated that one can also use

man made materials for different effects. He has used shredded money from a supplier and then adding a resin base or hardner so that it can be turned. Other materials he has used are, bowling balls, grape vines, corn cob centers that have been stabilized with CA glue, denim layers that have been wrapped around the brass inserts and CA glue applied in sufficient amounts to harden the layers, Corian counter top materials, acrylic pen blanks, and deer and elk antlers.

When cutting the pen blanks, a comfortable size to use would be 3/4" x 3/4" by the length of the brass tubes plus 1/8" for adequate material. These blanks can be cut on the band saw for accurate sizing. There are some cutters available from Penn State industries that one can use to cut a round blank with a sized hole for the proper pen parts. Other methods that can be used is wood clamps with a V notch cut into the jaws for holding purposes. However the notch must be cut accurately so that the hole will be accurately drilled by use of the drill press.

In the photo below Bob is going thru the grits sanding a pen blank



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Another method of drilling the holes in the blanks is to use a pen blank drilling jig that holds the pen blank accurately on the drill press table. A final method that can be used is a drill press vise and then clamp the blank into the vise for stability and then drill through the center of the blank with the desired hole required by the pen barrels. When drilling the hole, one should drill part way into the blank and then remove the bit to clear out the chips from the flutes in the drill bit. Continue drilling with this method until the complete hole has been drilled in the length of the blank. One must make sure that the drill press table is level to the plane of the drill bit. This can be done by using a section of straight wire and making two right angle bends at one end to make it look like the letter "h" with the left leg missing. Insert this into the drill chuck and hand turn it in a circle and notice the distance to the table once it has been moved 180 degrees in the circle.



In the above photo Bob is using CA Glue to stabilize a corn cob pen blank

Another method is to place a 3/8" rod into the drill chuck and bring up the table to the bottom. Using a small square, determine the level of the table by placing the flat of the square on the table and the other part on the side of the rod. Adjust accordingly in both cases.

Bob uses the drill chuck in his lathe to hold the brass tubes while sanding. He has found this to be an easy way to sand the exterior of the brass tubes before he glues them into the pen blanks. He uses 240 grit for this purpose. He emphasized that one should use a light tightening by hand on the drill chuck so as not to squeeze the tube into an oval position. He used CA glue in the past to glue the brass tubes into position. However he has found some cases of failure and now has switched to a different method of gluing. He has now uses Gorilla glue or poly glue that is sold by different manufacturers. He also has had success with a 2 part epoxy. In both of these cases he has to allow for overnight drying in order to get a stable glue up. Bob then trims the end of the tube so it is sanded to

the end of the brass tube. He said that it is important to make the end cuts 90 degrees straight to the tube alignment and not the sides of the pen blank. This can be done with a 4 bladed cutter and an insert guide. It can also be done on a circular sander if a guide or mandrel is used for accuracy. Then Bob uses a small de-burring tool to clean out any burs that may have formed in the sanding process.

Bob uses a mandrel to hold the pen blanks in place. This mandrel has a shaft over which the pen blank and brass insertion slides. Then the bushings are placed appropriately next to each of the bushings. These bushing are different for each pen set. They are necessary so that one will be able to turn the blank down to that diameter. Some turners like to use calipers to make sure that they have the accuracy needed to make a beautiful pen. These mandrels come with a Morse taper 1 or 2 size. These will fit directly into the headstock and provide an accuracy in turning that cannot be rivaled by any other method.

Bob used a shallow spindle gouge to turn the blanks round. He used them in a scraping method where the tool is horizontal to the bed of the lathe. He mentioned another method that can be used and that is to use the gouge at a slight angle where one could rub the bevel of the gouge against the wood. He said that other turners have had good success with this method. When he has finished with the gouge and has come close to the desired shape that he prefers, he will switch to a skew for final shaping. His skew was about 1 1/4 inches wide and he used it in a scraping motion with the tool horizontal to the floor. He again stated that this is his preferred method because he is able to remove any undulations and ripples that may have been caused by the gouge. He did comment that other national turners have been found to use this method. He stated that there are others that use the skew with the bevel rubbing and the tool skewed off to one side so that only 1/3 of the lower cutting edge is used and can get satisfactory results by that method. If during the course of turning the blank round, he runs into some loose grain or pull out of any part of the blank, he will use some thin CA glue on the whole piece to secure the grain. He felt that he can get great results when the glue has dried and it becomes more stabilized. He said that he will sand the blanks to around 400 grit but if the wood is really hard, he may go to 600 grit. He said that when sanding acrylic, one needs to change the paper often or the lumps in the sandpaper will cause a ripple to occur in the acrylic blank. He advised that one should not sand too aggressively on the metal bushings as that will reduce their size over time. He will use water to provide a sanding slurry and smooth out the barrel. He said that he will use Micro Mesh and provide for the final sanding finish. He normally runs his lathe at

around 2000 rpm to get the smooth results that he desires.

On wood, he will use a shellac to seal the wood. There are several finishes that he can use to add to the barrels. He will use CA glue as a finish and then sand and buff out. He has also used the following finishes with great results: poly gel finish, lacquer, Minwax paste wax, Renaissance wax, friction polish, and HUT shellac and wax mix. He said that the friction wax will not last on the pen and will wear off.

He uses acetone to clean up any CA glue that has dried incorrectly or is on his skin. He said that nail polish remover is the same stuff and cost considerably less. He said that a bottle of CA remover costs about \$6 and a bottle of nail polish remover will cost about \$1.50 and is available at any cosmetic counter. Acetone in a can at any paint store costs about \$3.

The metal parts for all pens are all plated. Some are 24K gold while others are strengthened with titanium and other metals. He purchases his kits from Penn State Industries but other pen parts can be purchased from Woodcraft and Berea Hardwoods.

He said that a pen insertion tool can be used to help glue in the brass tubes and hold them while CA glue is applied. This tool can also be made from a metal punch and create a small handle to hold the tool. Others can be made from 3/8" metal rod and turn down one end of the tool.

He also stated that one can go to any office supply store and purchase the Pentel pencils with a click top. He said that they are very easy to take apart and then turn the main body of the pen out of a wood or acrylic that is desirable to ones taste. He said that he makes a wooden mandrel and returns the barrel until it fits the Pentel parts.

BWWT would like to thank Bob Taylor for an outstanding and in depth presentation on pen turning. He said that he also has conversations on the internet chat rooms for pen makers and has acquired some valuable information from the participants. It certainly was evident that Bob had a significant and wide range of knowledge on pen turning and he was very willing to help the members in answering their pen turning questions. Bob also had a very large display of tooling for pen making as well as a nice array of finished pens that he was able to share with the membership. Thank you again for a fine job and your willingness to share.

Respectfully submitted
Jerry Schaible, Sec.

BUCKEYE WOODWORKERS
AND WOODTURNERS
August 15, 2009

The regular meeting of BWWT was called to order by Pres. Bill Stone. He welcomed all the members for coming to the meeting. He indicated that our demo today would be on pen making by Bob Taylor and that there would be a Hands On activity of pen making during the afternoon session.

Bill mentioned that the auction was a complete success and thanked all the members for bringing in their items to donate to the club. He said that a special note of thanks would go to Doll Lumber for the wood that they contributed to the auction. Hartville Hardware was singled out as a major contributor to our auction with the donation of tools and other items from their hardware department. Mike Wineburg was given a moment of recognition for his major contribution of BWWT shirts to the auction. These people and organizations have been very valuable to the success of our club.

The Pres. mentioned that Sept. meeting will be very special in that Cindy Drozda from Colorado will be present to give us a demonstration at the regular meeting on Sat. Sept. 19 to give us an educational experience in turning finial boxes. The session on Sat will last the complete day. On Sunday and Monday, she will be giving hands on instruction to approximately 10 people each day. The hands on sessions will be a fee based instructional period. We are expecting a large number of people to attend the meeting on Sat. so certain items from our regular meeting will be eliminated in order to make room for the demonstration. We are asked to park in the pasture or field immediately on your left as you enter through the equestrian entrance at the northwest part of the camp. A shuttle bus will be available to take members from the parking lot to Kastner hall for our meeting. This is necessary due to the fact that there will be approximately 200 - 300 young campers housed in the camp grounds. Obviously there is a need for safety during this weekend. The shuttle will probably start around 8 am and the last shuttle will be at 9:15 am, in time to make the meeting without interrupting the proceedings. Lunch will be provided for a \$5 fee and be served outside on the veranda overlooking Lake Noah.

This meeting will be a members only meeting with no visitors allowed, due to the small meeting room and anticipated increase in attendance of around 75 to 80 members. Ralph Kubal suggested that we should ask the Y Noah administration if they could limit the use of the first floor of Kastner hall so that we would not have any sound penetration that might disturb the proceedings of the demo. Bill Stone said that he

would look into that during the coming week. However, he did state that there would be no guarantees. There will be no show and tell tables during this meeting. The Drozda demo will last from 5 to 7 hours.

Bill also noted that we will be using a new concept of AV support during our pen demonstration today. It will be to see if we would like the format that it presents rather than the smaller TV presentations that we normally have. This is being done to see if we would like to purchase an AV projector to use during the Drozda demonstration in Sept. and then later during the coming demos for years to come. It was found that we were not advised to purchase the large LCD flat screen TV's because they will be stored in a very cold storage area during the winter time and that would cause trouble with the functions of the TV. It was duly noted that we currently own several TV cameras and a small TV module for the demonstrator's usage. We would be purchasing the projector and a screen.

We received a note from the Y Noah administration for our support in the summer Y Noah Turn and Learn sessions for their young campers. The note read that "I want to thank all of you for another amazing summer with our kids. You provide them opportunities that they would not receive anywhere else and that we could not provide without you. All of your time and patience is greatly appreciated. Thank you and have an amazing and successful year. See you at camp! Kyle and Camp Y Noah, 2009."

The Wooster Art Show will continue until Aug. 28. This show houses all the woodturning projects that BWWT and North Coast woodturners submitted for display and judging. It was noted that some of the choice pieces will be placed at the Canton Art Museum after the Wooster show closes. This will give further display to the general public of the woodturning art that is generated by the members of both clubs.

The Christmas dinner is now planned for Dec. 12 in the dining hall at Camp Y Noah. The cost of the dinner will be forthcoming in future meetings. The menu has been planned to be the same as in 2008.

Jim Brown is coming along slowly in his recovery. He is able to visit the out of doors for brief times. He is not eating well however that is expected to improve with time.

Don Karr mentioned that Harvey Caffee, a long time member of BWWT, died about two years ago and now his wife is wanting to sell his woodworking equipment and tools. He has a Powermatic jointer, Oliver lathe, Delta disc sander, Warner Hussey thickness planer, DeWalt cut off saw, many turning tools, 10" thickness planer, and an Atlas metal lathe. A phone

number is available from the BWWT president if you are interested.

Don Stahl informed the club that he has a large supply of wood available that is about 4" x 8" wide and in lengths of 8 feet to 16 feet long. This wood has come from an industrial supply source many years ago and stored in his barn. You are to call 330-414-9277 if you are interested in making an arrangement to see and purchase the wood. The supply is located near Norton High School.

Bill Seabolt mentioned that we had some late contributions to the auction fund receipts so that the total surpasses \$1300 and is one of the best ever showings for our auctions. Bill also gave a treasurers report and current standings of demonstration funds. He reported that he has been in email contact with Cindy Drozda to make sure that we are getting all our responsibilities taken care of. We have asked Cindy to demonstrate the finial box for which she is so famous for. In addition we have requested a hollow form demonstration and a use of a negative rake scraper to get the fine finishes that she develops in her turnings.

The demonstrations for October will be Christmas ornaments. For the month of November we will have a chain saw carver. He will demonstrate outside on the back porch or veranda. If that is not suitable, then we will meet at the fire ring next to Kastner Hall.

After the pen turning demo by Bob Taylor, the membership gave very favorable commentary about the use of the projector and screen. Ben Fix made a motion for us to spend \$1200 for the purchase of a projector and a screen for club use. Ray Marr seconded the motion. After a discussion, a vote was taken by the pres. and a unanimous show of hands on the yeas vote passed the legislation. More inquiry will be done to determine the best price available on the market.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Schaible, Sec.

Tools Wanted

Rick Maier Wants to buy a mini lathe for a student he taught. If you have a mini lathe to sell please call Rick at 330-745-6751

Tools For Sale

The wife of deceased member **Harvey Caffee** would like to sell his wood working tools as listed below.

Powermatic Jointer model 60
Oliver Lathe model 2159
Delta 12 inch disc sander
Baldor 8" slow speed grinder
Warner & Hussy thickness planer
30 or more skews and gouges
Dewalt 12' cut off saw
16" Craftsman drill press
Heavy duty industrial jacks in 3 sizes
10" thickness planer
Powermatic 12" band saw
Sears 12" radial arm saw
.Atlas metal working lathe with cross feed
Delta 10" table saw
Sand blaster ALC
Older type jig saw w/o motor
Phase converter
Various electric drills

Please contact
Mrs. Ludell Caffee
1069 Elbon Rd.
Cleveland Heights, Ohio
Ph. 381-3870 (area code not provided)

No prices provided

Calendar of Events

The September meeting will be Saturday the 19th at Camp Y-NOAH

Please take note of some special considerations for this meeting!

Due to heavy park usage on this weekend, parking will not be available in the main lot or at the meeting hall! BWWT members will park in the pasture at the equestrian area off Cristman Rd. (this is the first road west of the main park entrance) A shuttle will be available from 8AM until 9:15 AM to take you to the meeting. Please arrive early!

Please do not drive past or around any barricades! Park in the field and wait for the shuttle to return for you. The shuttle will also be available to return you to your car around noon for those who wish to leave after the morning session, and again at the end of the afternoon session.

A \$5.00 lunch will be available for those who want it.

This will be an all day demonstration by professional turner Cindy Drozda of Colorado. She will demonstrate turning lidded Finial boxes, using a negative rake scraper, and hollow form laser measuring. A lunch will be available for \$5.00. Please note that due to limited space, this meeting is open to **paid members only! No guests please!**

Two days of hands on training will follow on Sunday and Monday for those who have paid reservations. Bring your own lunch to these hands on sessions! Free coffee and donuts will be provided.

Future demos as scheduled

Oct. ..Christmas ornaments

Nov.. Chainsaw carving demonstration

Dec.....Annual Christmas Dinner

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