



Contains March 2010 Minutes

April 2010



Bowl Turning by Larry McCardel
March 20, 2010

Larry began his discussion on bowl turning by listing several books that one can turn to for printed information on how to turn a bowl and what kind of design or shapes one should be looking for in the bowl creation. His list included a book by Ernie Conover, entitled *Great Results of Bowl Turning*; Richard Raffan in *The Art of Turning Bowls*, and Jim Hunniex on *A Woodturning Source Book for Shapes*.

Larry indicated that there are many sources that one can acquire wood to use for woodturning. He felt that a good source of wood was his neighbors' firewood pile. He also stated that some woodturners have more wood than they can use and might be willing

to trade some wood of different species. There are also many homeowners that want to cut down some trees in their yard and have a huge pile available. Members should ask the owners if they can have some pieces for woodturning. Many times this wood can be acquired for free. Maybe a turned item can be returned to the owner in appreciation for the wood that was acquired. Davy Tree Service is continually cutting trees and may also have wood available for the asking. At times the city or the community in which you live needs to cut down some trees in parks or other public areas. If one talks to the mayor or service director of those communities, one might be able to acquire some wood. Be sure to get permission from the proper authorities before acquiring some wood blanks. The BWWT July auction has a large supply of wood available for very modest prices. This is available on a bidding basis. Also, Doll Lumber in Southington, Ohio has a very large supply of wood available for sale. They are actually a logging company and have provided woodturners in the past with some very nice quality of wood blanks. These are available at current market prices. Many times the saw mills have cut offs that they will sell for reasonable prices. After large spring storms with high winds, go through an area, there is an ample supply of turning material if one has a chain saw to help cut up the fallen limbs. Again, permission is needed before one can participate in this activity.

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When a log section has been selected, one should begin preparing the wood for the lathe.



In this photo Larry is using a home made center finding scale to locate the most desirable line on which to split his log.

For some individuals, one can use a chain saw and prepare wood blanks for turning into projects later. One should be aware that the pith of the log segments is the most unstable part of the tree. The pith which is usually in the center of the log segment, is very susceptible splitting, checking, or cracking. One should be prepared to split the log in half, through the pith of the tree. One can use a chainsaw, a splitting maul, or a bandsaw to cut through the log segment. After a log segment has been cut, it will lose its moisture out through the ends of the logs quicker than through the sides or bark area. This rapid escape of moisture dries out the ends of the log segment and the wood begins to shrink. This will induce the splitting of the log at the ends since it dries faster than the interior of the log segment. One is able slow down the escaping moisture by coating the end grain of log segments with wax, or end grain sealer, known as Anchorseal, which is a

waxy emulsion. Store the log segments out of the sun or wind, to help prevent the checking or cracking.



Having split his log length wise, Larry is about to use his round plywood template as a guide to rough out a round shape.

When one is ready to cut the round wood blank out of the half log segment, one can use the bandsaw for this procedure. Larry placed a disc made from 1/4 thick plywood on top of the half log on the rounded side. He has a hole drilled in the center of the disc so that he can temporarily mount it on the bark side with an awl or small nail. This is to stay in place so that he can have a shape to guide him in cutting out the round bowl blank on the bandsaw. The half log segment should be placed on the bandsaw table with the cut side down and the rounded bark side up. This is done for solid support of the log segment and to not bind the bandsaw blade in the cutting operation. During the cutting operation, one should cut around the plywood disc for nearly a complete circle. Use the disc center hole to locate the center of the bowl blank opposite of the bark side of

the blank. This is done so that one can mount the log segment on the lathe between centers in nearly the center of the log at both ends. Use a chisel to remove some of the bark and new growth wood near the center hole created by the awl. This is done to provide a solid piece of wood for the 4 pronged drive center to bite into the wood. The lathe should be set at its slowest speed prior to mounting the log segment on the lathe.



Locate the bark side of the blank to the tailstock side of the lathe bed. This should provide a closely balanced bowl blank. Hand rotate the blank on the lathe to check for balance and to be sure that it passes the tool rest before turning on the lathe. Check to see that the 4 pronged drive center is securely lodged in the log. One may have drove the 4 pronged teeth into the log segment with a wooden hammer when the log segment is off the lathe and on solid support. Seat the tailstock in position and lock down all levers for a tight, safe position of the log segment in the lathe. Bring up the tool rest and hand turn the piece to make sure that it clears the tool rest completely around the piece. Stand off to the side of the bowl blank

and start the lathe at a very slow lathe speed and watch for out of round vibration. If vibration occurs, then back off or slow down the lathe speed until it runs smoothly. If the lathe has manual adjustment speeds, then before turning on the lathe, change the belts to the lowest speed possible. This should be done with bowl blank off the lathe for safety concerns.

Larry now began to rough out the bottom exterior of the bowl. He took very light cuts to begin to even out the high spots of the rough bowl blank. This was done to remove the heavier parts of the blank and therefore reduce the vibration possibilities of the turning blank. Light cuts should be taken here to prevent a dig in of the tool tip. As the complete blank becomes balanced, one might want to increase the speed slightly to get better cutting action. The tool tip should be cutting at the center line of the headstock and tailstock points. Adjust the tool rest to meet that requirement. The cutting edge of the tool should be at or near 45 degrees. The handle of the tool should be anchored at the hip for stability reasons. Using a pull cut, start at the bottom center of the bowl near the tailstock point. Have the bowl gouge turned over so the flute is facing the bowl blank and cutting with the bottom sharp edge of the tool tip. This will prevent a tear out or dig in while cutting the exterior. One should stop the lathe often to inspect the work and move the tool rest closer to the blank as rough shavings have been removed and will leave a gap. Continue shaping the exterior to an artistic design that you are pleased with. Remove all sapwood and bark from the turning. The sapwood has soft fibers and they will crush when you attempt to put them into a scroll chuck. This will give you an uneven or out of round turning when trying to finish the bowl. Continue making cuts until all flat spots have been removed from the exterior surface. Inspect the turned blank to locate any checks or cracks in the wood surface. Larry recommends that one

should throw a cracked blank in the fire and then select another piece of wood. He indicated that life is too short to turn bad wood. He also indicated that you should always be on the lookout for nails or bullets buried in the wood blank. This can be done visually or with a metal detector. It is now time to turn a tenon or a recess on the bottom of the blank. This is done so that when the blank is turned around 180 degrees and remounted, the chuck has something to hold onto. A tenon is a short 1/4" to 3/8" extension on the bottom of the bowl. This would allow the chuck to grip the outside of the tenon securely when hollowing out the interior. A recess is an indentation cut into the wood bottom. Usually a recessed dovetail cut is made about 1/4" to 3/8" into the bottom foot area of the blank. This would allow the scroll chuck to utilize an expansion grip inside the recess. Either of these two methods can be used, depending on individual design preferences. To determine the size of the foot needed, one should measure the size of the chuck jaws with a calipers, and then transfer that to the bottom of the bowl blank. Allow sufficient material for the tenon or the recess diameter so that so that the scroll chuck can be tightened sufficiently to hold the bowl blank securely. To make any dovetail cuts, Larry made a tool with a dovetail grind on the tip to cut the correct angle. His tool was made from 3/8" x 3/8" HSS square stock. If a tenon is used, then a flat surface needs to also be cut at the top of the tenon so that the face of the scroll chuck jaws can rest tightly against that surface and then pinch the tenon. This procedure is used to perfectly align the bowl blank when it is reversed for interior hollowing. Try to make the tenon the size that is almost the size of the perfect true circle of the chuck jaws when they are almost closed. This will give the greatest holding power of the scroll chuck. Remove the bowl blank and reverse it in the chuck to prepare to hollow out the interior. Check to see that the top of the jaws are touching the flat surface above the tenon. Bring up the tailstock

and using a 60 degree ball bearing centered in the indentation alignment hole, align the bowl blank and tighten down the tailstock and the scroll chuck.

Make several passes with the bowl gouge across the top of the bowl to remove any undulations and straighten up the top of the bowl. Larry then rounded over the sharp corner at the top of the bowl for safety reasons. While the bowl is spinning, one could get cut with that sharp edge. He then removed the tailstock for tool clearance when hollowing out the interior. Larry used a 3/8" long drill bit with a turned handle seated in epoxy glue and hand drilled a hole into the center of the opening of the bowl blank interior. This is the center of the bowl while it is turning and it always has a slow rotating center and it is difficult to remove when turning. Larry drilled at a low RPM so as to not overheat the drill bit. He removed the shavings often so that it would not overload the drill bit. He recommended shallow bowls for beginners since they are easier to turn with not as much wood to be removed. Deeper bowls are more difficult to turn the bottom interiors correctly. Larry took light cuts with the bowl gouge to cut out the interior material and leave smooth turned surfaces. He was checking his shavings often to see that they were thin and light ribbons of wood. That result would give him the best turned interior surfaces. He would start the bowl gouge at the edge of the bowl and turn toward the drilled center hole in the top of the blank. He did this many times until the interior of the bowl began to take shape. He tried to follow the exterior shape to provide an even thickness throughout the bowl. He attempted to complete the upper 1 1/2" of the bowl near the rim to finished thickness and then not go back to that area. He commented on the fact that since the bowl was being turned from wet wood, and that it would easily lose its shape and become out of round as it began to dry on the lathe. Larry also stressed that one should

use the bevel of the tool as support when turning the bowl depth. Larry suggested that one might rotate the bowl gouge tool over to almost a 9 o'clock position of the flute, so that the top edge of the flute is almost touching the bowl interior. This would provide a shear scrape and help smooth out the undulations of the interior. He attempted to remove all tool marks with his bowl gouge turned at about a 45 deg. angle to the turned wood. Larry also has a Ray Key bowl scraper that he uses for cleaning up the tool marks. It is a scraper with a pointed tip and it is about 1 1/2 inches wide. Larry said that it will allow him to start sanding with 220 grip sandpaper as opposed to the 36 grip sandpaper that he has been accused of using. He used calipers to determine and check the consistent wall thickness throughout the piece. Larry sands at slow speeds so that he does not overheat the wood and cause heat cracks. This also keeps his sandpaper cooler. He will also use sanding pads to hold the sandpaper in position. He has a power sanding system that he uses and it is a small mandrel with a soft sponge rubber base. He then uses a Velcro backed sandpaper to provide abrasive to the interior of the bowl. This is placed in his electric drill so that he can power sand the interior or exterior of the bowl. This type of sanding is much quicker for providing a smooth surface. He will sand up to 400 or 600 grit if needed to provide a smooth finish.

He now reverses the completed bowl on the lathe to true up the bottom tenon for final finishing. He places a 4" plastic pipe section into his scroll chuck and adjusts it until it is even and true. He covers the edge of the pipe with a small piece of fake chamois so it will not mar the interior of the piece. Then he brings up the tailstock for centering and holding the turned bowl in place. He takes a small gouge and shapes the bottom of the tenon and turns off the corner next to the flat bottom surface near the top of the tenon. This will complete the rounded portion of the

exterior bowl and create a nice pleasing shape. This area is now sanded smooth and blended in with the exterior wall of the bowl.

Larry uses 3 coats of gel finish and allows 8 hour drying time between each coat. Do not use heavy coats of finish but rub out the coat very thin. After three coats he will buff the piece with white diamond buffing compound. Then he will add 3 more coats of gel finish and 8 hours of drying time between each coat. He then will buff the second time with white diamond. He finally will add some Renaissance wax and then buff with a wax wheel for final polish.

Thanks Larry for a great demonstration to our club members.

Respectfully submitted
Jerry Schaible, Sec.



Above Larry displays the finished bowl.

BUCKEYE WOODWORKERS
AND WOODTURNERS
March 20, 2010

The regular meeting of BWWT was called to order by Pres. Bill Stone. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and then recognized the six visitors that attended. There were a total of 54 people that attended the meeting at Camp Y Noah.

The Pres. stated that he had applied for an AAW Grant for the current year of 2010. He indicated that the maximum grant that could be allowed was for \$1500. He applied for the maximum to purchase some audio and video equipment to enhance our demo presentations. This should provide audio and visual clarity for all the members when our meetings are held. We will begin the purchase of equipment in the coming weeks as the grant money arrives.

The woodturning demo on baseball bats will be postponed indefinitely due to the fact that the demonstrator has acquired some conflicts in his commercial sales and marketing schedule. This demo may return to our schedule in 2011, if the correct timing can be established.

The field trip to Kiem Lumber will be held in June in place of the usual trip to Doll Lumber. We have been promised a conference room for our business meeting and then a tour of the lumber and milling dept. of Kiem Lumber. There will also be a tour of their exotic woods room which houses wood from all over the world. Our business meeting will be held at 9:00 AM on June 19. There will be a short meeting and then the tour will begin immediately after adjournment. After the tour, the members may move to the exotic woods dept. where we have been promised a club discount 10%, on all purchases. It should be noted that Kiem Lumber also sponsors a breakfast buffet on site and begins at 7:30 AM, prior to our meeting.

The Woodturning Art Show for the Wayne County for the Arts Museum will begin in mid July through mid August. Members were informed that they need to begin making their wood turned items for this show and judging. Prize money will again be available for the winners of each category. The board of directors of the art show, are currently selecting the judges for this event. The actual judging will take place on July 10 and then the showing will be occurring after that. The Art Dept of Cleveland State University want to show some of the pieces in their gallery showing after the show in Wayne County has concluded. It is also known that the Canton Art Museum wants to show some of the wood turned pieces in their gallery. Members are urged to make plans now for entering their pieces.

Pres. Bill Stone encouraged members to bring their wood turned pieces to the regular meetings and place them on the Show and Tell tables. New turners should bring their work to the meetings so that they can be displayed. Photos will be taken of each piece and placed on our website in the gallery division. These are quality photos and are available for all members to see. Members can then print off or download their photographed pieces for personal use.

We are encouraging members to wear their nametags so that other members and visitors will know who you are. This could be a name tag issued by BWWT or another name tag from some other event that you have attended. Pres. Bill Stone will select a quality gift from the raffle table and present it to a member whose name has been picked from the monthly sign-in list that is available at each meeting.

John Dilling has stepped down from keeping the monthly membership list. Phil Brower has taken over as Comptroller of the Membership Listing for club. We sincerely thank

Phil for accepting this responsibility.

Dave Floyd would like to step down as the newsletter editor and we do need a replacement for this position. It will require taking a few pictures at the regular meeting and inserting them into the body of the newsletter that will appear on our web site each month. These photos are combined with the notes of the regular monthly meeting to create the newsletter.

Pres. Stone also mentioned that we do need volunteers to do some small jobs that are needed to run a successful meeting and program. He asked for these volunteers to approach him and indicate that they are ready to help out.

Two Cindy Drozda pieces that the club has in their possession, have sold recently. The first one was sold at a special raffle at our club earlier in the year and we received about \$100 for that raffle. The second piece from Cindy Drozda sold on Ebay for approximately \$140. The third piece will be sold in the club in some format at a future meeting. All money will go to the club treasury for future expenditures.

Members were alerted to our annual BWWT club auction that will be held in July. It was noted that the auction was our best money-maker during the year. Our members should look around their shop and see what items of tools, wood, books and other sundry items they are not using and donate them to the club for this auction. Items are to be brought to the pavilion on the morning of July 17 and then removed after the auction is over. All money will go to the BWWT treasury for future expenditures for a national woodturner to visit for a weekend activity of demonstrations and hands on activities.

Don Karr has indicated that the club has many books, CD's, and DVD's on woodturning and woodworking in our library. Don re-

quests that you place your name on the card that is in each book and leave the card in the book cabinets. Use the book and bring it back in one month so that others can check out the library materials. He indicated that quite a few new items have been placed on the shelves of the three cabinets for member use. Many of the latest items have been purchased from Hartville Hardware during their big tool sale in Feb.

The treasurer, Bill Seabolt, gave a report of the money that is in the BWWT account. He indicated that he has new shirts that are available for members with the club logo imprinted on the shirt. He said that these are lower than the previous shirts that the club has offered to members. To order a shirt, a member should see Bill to pay by check prior to the order being placed.

Respectfully submitted
Jerry Schaible, sec.

Calendar of Events

The April meeting will be at Camp Y-Noah on Saturday the 17th

Hoby Horn will demonstrate the correct way to use the gouge and the skew. The really good news is we will be using our new zoom camera and everyone will be able to see what is being done.

Up-coming Demonstrations

In May ...To be announced.

In June we will go to Keim Lumber in Charm, Ohio for our regular meeting and a tour of their mill. This will be a real treat as their shop is not generally open to the public. A special discount of 10% has been arranged on all tools and exotic woods on that day only. Be sure to read the meeting minutes in this newsletter for more details on this event.

The October demo will highlight Mike Kehs from Pennsylvania. He is a woodturner / carver and his topic will be to show carved enhancements to our woodturned bowls and vases. He will have an all day discussion on Oct. 16, 2010 and then a hands on session on Oct. 17, with 8 participants in the class. If there is a further interest, he might be able to hold a second hands on session on Monday. The Sat. session will be free but there will be a \$50 fee for each hands on session.

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