



Contains March 2011 Minutes

April 2011



Ernie Conover
Spindle Turning
March 19, 2011

Bill Stone introduced Ernie Conover from Geauga County, Ohio as a woodturner, furniture maker and wood educator. Ernie indicated that most of the time when one gives a demo on woodturning it is on the subject of bowls but to a lesser degree is it on spindle turning. Where bowls are usually one of a kind, in spindle turning, one has to make several duplicates of the same piece in order to complete the project. He indicated that it is more difficult to be a good spindle turner. He also cited a simple truth in that one can have good teachers in woodturning but you need to practice in order to get better. Ernie indicated that it takes more than woodturning just on Sunday, but you have to prac-

tice two or three times per week in order to progress from the beginning stages. He stated that when a vocalist wants to get to Carnegie Hall, he has to practice, practice, and practice.

Ernie stated that in order to be a good woodturner, one needs to have a good supply of tools so that he can make the proper cuts. He said that the following tools are needed for spindle turning. 1. One of the first tools he needs is a 1 1/2" roughing out gouge. This tool is very effective in removing bark and turning off corners or edges of spindle blanks. It will get spindle blanks round very quickly. This tool should never be used for face plate work. 2. Spindle gouges are also a requirement for spindle turning. Generally these tools right from the factory are never ground correctly. Ernie likes to grind his tools with a long fingernail grind. He grinds his bevels to 25 degrees. These tools are excellent for making beads and covers. He indicated that the Doug Thompson tools are excellent for the money invested. Ernie especially likes his 7/16" spindle gouge. 3. He also stated that one needs a long corner or chisel tool. These are also called skews with a toe and a heel design or skewed shape. The oval skew is also very handy and easy to use. Most of the time one will use the skew on the bottom corner or heel of the cutting surface. This allows the skew to lay rather flat and supported on the lower edge by the tool rest. Used in this manner,

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the tool will not catch or dig into the spindle blank. 4. A parting tool is used to separate segments of the spindle blank. Most of the parting tools today are diamond shaped tools but usually are 3/16" in width. The thinner, narrow parting tools are hard to find. The diamond shape is used so that there is less friction the deeper one goes into the cut. 5. A bead or parting tool can also be of valuable help in spindle turning. This is made from 3/8" square stock and is ground equidistant from the sides to a chisel point at the midway point of the steel shank. A similar tool is called a Bedan and it has a sharp edge on top of the grind and relieved on the lower side. Sometimes the sides are ground to a slight taper to give the tool less friction in the deeper cuts. 6. Scrapers are a valuable addition to ones list of tools. These tools are ground to a five or ten degree bevel and are used in a slightly downward position to get the best negative rake on the cutting surface and be free from catches or dig ins onto the spindle blank. These scrapers are generally ground in a round nose or square nose shape, although many other shapes can be used for specific purposes or designs.

Other tools that Ernie likes for making woodturning easier are center finders for locating the centers of the spindle blanks on end grain. Dividers are used for many purposes but also for dividing off sections of the spindle blank. Calipers are used to set certain diameters on the spindle and then turning to those dimensions. If there are sharp points on the calipers, then they should be ground round or smoothed off so that they do not mar the wood. Ernie also uses an automatic center punch so that when the proper location of found for the center point, he can push the spring loaded mechanism and it will cause a small hole in the end grain for alignment of the drive center and tailstock center. He also uses an arm rest holder that was popular in the 18th and 19th century woodturners. This is a long tool where by the metal is turned up on the end. It is used

over the tool rest and held in the left hand and under the arm pit. It holds the turning tool from the right hand in position to do the cutting. The benefit of this arm rest holder is so that one can leave the tool rest in position and be able to provide support for any tool location that is held in the right hand. A chatter tool can be made from a saber saw blade or hack saw blade and held in position in a saw kerf cut at the end of a dowel. This can be held in place with CA glue or epoxy. After the glue has hardened, one can then grind the preferred shape on the end of the metal tool.

Some of the old chucks that were used were made out of wood. These 4 or 5 inch chucks were rounded over and then a recess was placed in the center of the wood blank. The hole was of sufficient size so that the wood blank could be jammed in place and would be held there by friction between the two pieces of wood. These wooden jamb chucks would be held in place in the headstock by either the use of a face plate or the wood chuck blank could be held in position by tapping a hole to match the threads of the headstock spindle. Do not make the jamb chucks out of poplar. They are too soft for accuracy. Ernie likes to use hard maple if he can get it. Today we have a modern invention called a scroll chuck that is used to hold items in place while turning. This chuck would typically consist of four jaws that would grip the wood tenon that had been turned on the end of the wood blank. Tapered mandrels made from wood can also be used for projects like napkin rings. A jamb chuck should have a 3 degree taper to have things fit properly.

Ernie stated that there are very few tools that come from the factory that are sharpened effectively for his use. He indicated that roughing out gouges need to be very sharp in order to handle all the difficult turning situations. He uses buffing wheels to put the final sharp edge on tools. His buffing

wheels are charged with a compound that produces a very nice edge on his tools. He also uses ceramic stones and honing devices to put a very sharp edge on his tools. He said that the advantage of the buffing system is that every place will have a sharp edge, whereas the grinding wheel might miss some areas of the turning edge. On spindle gouges he uses the One Way Wolverine sharpening system. He said that the skew should be ground on the edge of the grinding wheel. After that he will use a wet stone on the skew edge.

Other tools that Ernie will use are as follows:

1. A marking knife for indicating the center of the spindle blank. He indicated that a pencil is too wide and many times is dull and leaves a wide line. A knife is much more accurate in leaving a line. 2. He uses a spring loaded Stebcenter. This Stebcenter will come in sizes of 1 1/4", 7/8", and 1/2" diameter. They have a multi spur row of teeth around the outer edge. He said that Penn State sells these for around \$20. He said that Penn State also sells tailstock centers for around \$20 and they are of high quality.

Ernie gave some hints on how to use the turning tools properly. He said that to use the roughing gouge or spindle gouge, one should lay the tool on the spinning piece with the handle down and the bevel rubbing, but not cutting the spindle blank. Then slowly raise the handle until the cutting begins to occur. Take thin cuts along the spindle blank. In the skew, you should use only the heel of the cutting edge and move the tool slowly to let the cutting edge do the work. He indicated that there is a very large learning curve that one must master before he become proficient in the use of the skew. When making beads, one is to use the toe of the skew to mark the limits of the bead and then use the spindle gouge with the finger nail grind to roll the beads toward each of the skew marks. One should swing the handle around to complete the bead design. Beads can also be made

with the beading tool, which is similar to the skew except that it has a square nose front. Coves can be made with a spindle gouge. One should take light cuts until the surface is smooth and the intended design has been achieved. Ernie will also use a wrench of the proper size to measure the diameter of a tenon, when he is cutting them. He says that they are more efficient and handy than the calipers which have to be continually set for different diameters.

When duplicating work, one does not need to be exact with a micrometer, like the metal turners have to be. He said that the eye can complete the view or process, to make it look exact. He stated that it is important to get the beads the correct height and separation. He said that it is very helpful to place the master spindle behind the lathe in order to copy it satisfactorily. He said that it is important to measure the first bead with a tape measure and then use a set of dividers for the remaining beads. He said that one can also use a story stick and lay out the beads and coves or the master plan. This can be done on paper and then glue it to a thin 1/16" stick and wide enough to accommodate the desired shape.

Then use it as the measuring device to lay out the spindle blank. The story stick will reduce the time needed to make the piece.

Respectfully submitted
Jerry Schaible, Sec.



BUCKEYE WOODWORKING
AND WOODTURNING
March 19, 2011

Pres. Tom Johnson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the business information and demonstration. There were 70 people in attendance. This included 4 guests that introduced themselves as well as 2 new members.

The president had received a call from Vince Russell that he had several old oak beams that came out of a barn. He would like to sell them but did not quote a price for each of the beams. They are 4" X 12" X 6 feet in size. You may call Vince at 330-699-5743 for more information.

VP Bob Scharl indicated that we now have a 4 x 5 foot table that our club has purchased at the Canton Woodcarving show in Canton Ohio. The purpose of the show will be to display our woodturned items and also some carvings. Anyone interested is to contact Bob at 497-2682 for more information or turn in your woodturned projects to him at your earliest convenience. The show times will be 10-5pm on Sat. and 11-4pm on Sunday. There will be a \$4 admission charge to see the show.

Marty Chapman indicated that he has recently opened an art gallery that will show his woodturned items as well as other forms of art design. He stated that Minerva will be having an Octoberfest in their community and he would like to display our woodturning talents by having a First Ever Turn Off and display the turnings on the street. Electricity will be provided and individuals will have awnings to protect them from the elements. He said that he can accommodate between 8 to 10 woodturners on the sidewalk in front of his store. He also stated that he will be teaching at the Campbell Folk School from April 3 to April 8. He said that there are several spots left in his mini lathe class. See him if you

are interested.

Bill Seabolt gave a treasurers report and also indicated that name tags are available as well as membership forms for anyone that wants to be a member of our club.

Bob Scharl selected two items from the Show and Tell table and had the craftsmen come up and describe how they turned their projects. The first project was completed by Glen Graham. It was a very nice knife and case that he made. The knife was made from raw materials and crafted into a very beautiful knife. He indicated that the metal came from a long sheet of stainless steel that was formed into a knife blade. The handle had some scrimshaw design carved into the wood for beautification. Marty Chapman was chosen for his beautiful cherry burl that he turned into a hollow vessel or vase. He said that he turned a walnut neck and opening for the top. He said that there were some voids in the piece and he glued some bark and brass shavings into the voids to offset the burl. He indicated that the wood came from a special sale at the club meeting.

Tom informed the group that we are missing a Cindy Drozda DVD on thin spindle turning for box lids. He asked individuals to check their DVD's at home to see if they had it.

Bill Stone reported on the nature center remodeling project that the club is undertaking. He stated that we needed people to help out in this reconstruction project. We also need help in laying a new floor of tile as well as painting and constructing a learning center in the cabin. There will be a contractor who will do the drywall and donate his time to this project.

The demo for the month of April will be turning pepper mills by Tim Niewiadomski. He has some unique methods that he will present. Future demos will be the making of tools and tool handles for personal woodturn-

ing use. Tool steel is available for sale from Bill Seabolt, club treasurer. In June we will be visiting Doll Lumber while in July we will have our annual club auction.

The monthly auction was held after a short break in the meeting. After the auction, the demonstration was given by Ernie Conover, on Spindle Turning.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Schaible, Sec.



Calendar of Events

The April meeting of BWWT will be at YMCA Camp Y-NOAH on Saturday April 16, 2011.

The demo for the month of April will be turning pepper mills by Tim Niewiadomski. He has some unique methods that he will present.

May.....Tool making session.

June.....Visit to Doll Lumber Co.

July.....Annual Club Tool Auction at the Y Noah pavilion.

August.....Mirka Corp Rep. will demonstrate sanding techniques on woodturning.

Sept.....TBA

Oct.....Christmas Ornament Decorations.

Nov.....TBA

Dec.....Christmas Dinner.

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