



Contains February 2021 Minutes

March 2021

**NO MEMBERS OR VISITORS SHALL ENTER OR EXIT THE CAMP VIA THE CHRISTMAN ROAD ENTRANCE. MEMBERS MUST ENTER AND EXIT FROM MT.PLEASANT ROAD.**

**BUCKEYE WOODWORKERS  
AND WOODTURNERS  
February 13th, 2021**

**Anyone wishing to submit pictures for the newsletter please send them to the editor within two days of the meeting**

**\*\*\*\*\*Note\*\*\*\*\***

**Buckeye Woodturners Meeting  
ZOOM online meeting  
February 13, 2021**

*Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Stransky*

The February 13, 2021 meeting of the Buckeye Woodworkers and Woodturners was held via Zoom video conferencing. Dirk Falther hosted the meeting. There were more than 45 members signed in for the meeting. Today's demonstrator is Eric Lofstrom of Enumclaw, Washington. Eric will be demonstrating making boxes that "breathe".

George Barlow welcomed all to today's meeting. Before Eric started his presentation, George held a short business meeting for the members.

- George gave an update on upcoming demonstrations. David Ellsworth be the demonstrator for the March 13 meeting. David will be demonstrating his natural edge platters. The April demonstration will feature Ron Tomasch who will be turning a miniature baseball hat.
- George again asked for nominations for the BWWT Hall of Fame induction. Past inductees have been Hoby Horn, Bill Stone, George Raeder

and Jerry Schaible. Qualifications for nomination are that the member must have been an active member in good standing for at least five years and made significant contribution to BWWT and club activities. Please submit nominations to any BWWT officer by March 1, 2021.

- There will be a special Show and Tell meeting on February 27, 2021 at 9:00 that will be held via Zoom. Dirk Falther will again host this meeting. Please submit all picture entries to Mark Stransky as .jpg files via email no later than February 19.
- George let everyone know that the Rikon lathes will be improved with the addition of locking casters to make it easier to set the lathes up for demonstrations and hands-on sessions.
- George has a contact for people who are interested in picking up any burls. The contact is Nate in Massillon, Ohio; phone number 330-481-7805. Anyone interested should call ahead to find out what Nate has in stock. George also has a contact for anyone in need of the use of a sawmill. Contact Tige Wingard, phone number 330-332-4988 if anyone has a need for sawmill services.
- The winner of this month's BWWT Newsletter "Did You Read It" challenge was Craig Jenkins. Craig will receive a Hartville Hardware \$20 gift card. There were 8 members who read the newsletter and responded to Mark Stransky with the key word. As a recap, this is how it works: the first dues paying member to see a keyword buried somewhere in the newsletter and emails back to Mark Stransky that they have found it and where in the newsletter it was, will win their choice of a wonderful PRIZE of their choosing. The prize will be either a Hartville Hardware gift card or a woodturning blank out of my personal stash of blanks (don't worry – I promise to make it worthwhile). The new keyword for this newsletter is "BOWL". Please keep in mind that the keyword used in the previous sentence doesn't count as a winning entry.

- George reminded members that membership dues for 2021 are now due.

### Endgrain Boxes that “Breathe”

[Eric Lofstrom](#)

February 13, 2021

*Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Stransky*

Today's demonstrator will be Eric Lofstrom of Enumclaw, Washington. Eric will be demonstrating how he makes endgrain boxes that “breathe”.

Eric began his demonstration by showing some of the breathable boxes that he has made and explained how his boxes came to have that name. The concept deals with how long it takes for the bottom of the box to separate from the lid under its own weight followed by how long it takes for the lid of the box to set onto the bottom under its own weight. Sounds tricky doesn't it? Well, it is dependent on a little bit of skill to maintain close clearances between the lid and bottom along with patience and a careful drying process.



Eric started with a kiln dried hard maple blank that was about 4" long and a little over 2" square. He uses a wooden gage to

mark where the tenons will be on each end of the blank, the lid, the base and the overlap for the joint where the lid and base will meet. The overlap will be a part of the base. Each key location has a small notch in the gage for a pencil to mark the rounded blank. The size of the boxes that Eric makes are based on the golden mean. The gage also has a beveled straight edge on one side that he uses to mark the ends corner to corner to locate the center on each end. After he has marked the centers, he prick punches the centers and mounts the piece between centers using a steb center in his chuck.



Before he started turning the blank, Eric gave a short demonstration on sharpening his skew. He uses a 60 grit CBN wheel with a platform set to the correct angle on his grinder. He rests the skew on the grinder platform and holds it down with one hand while swinging the cutting edge across the wheel.



After he has sharpened one side of the skew, he turns it over and repeats the process on the other side. After the grinder, he makes a single pass on each side with an extra fine diamond hone to remove the burr from the grinder. After honing, the next step is to use a leather strop on each side to remove any remaining burr and polish the edge. The skew was then sharp enough to shave with (yes he did shave the hair on his arm).

With the skew sharpened, he then moved on to rounding off the blank. He used a peeling cut with the skew to make short work of this.

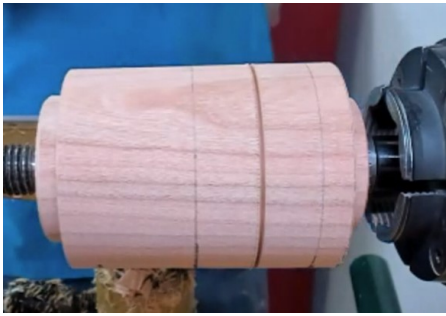


The next step was to mark the key locations on his marking gage to the blank. When this was done, he used his skew to cut the tenons on each end of the blank and cut a small groove where the overlap of the lid will meet the base.

At this point it is time to separate the lid from the base. This can be done with either a parting tool or cut on a band saw. Eric uses a band saw to do this as the blade will have a smaller curf than the parting tool

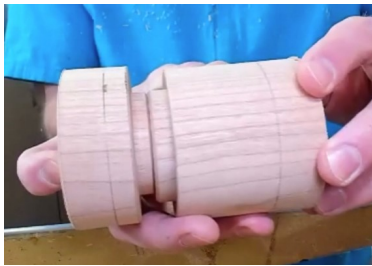


which will allow a better grain match between the lid and the base. Eric uses a v-block sled to support the blank when he cuts it on the band saw. The sled that he uses will provide support to both sides of the piece when cutting, allowing for a safer, more even cut.



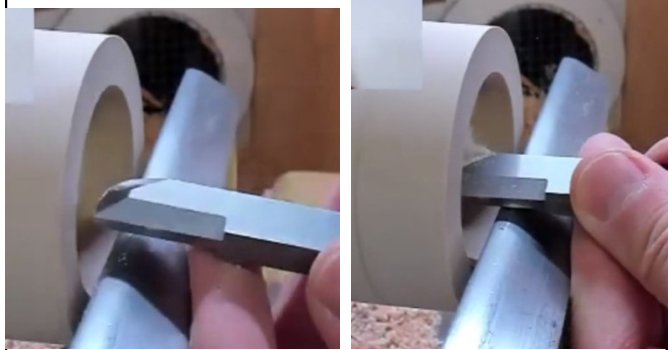
After the blank is cut, the next step is to set the pieces aside to dry. This additional drying step, and the one following, is needed in order to make sure the close clearances required for the box to "breathe" are maintained. Eric tapes the pieces together with the tenons end to end and then marks them with the date and weight of both pieces. The drying time for this is about 2 weeks or until the 2 pieces stop losing weight.

After the blanks have dried sufficiently, it is time to start hollowing out the box. Eric used a base and lid that was already dry to proceed with the demonstration. He



first mounted the lid in the chuck and then used a bowl gouge to face off the lid. He then hollowed out the lid with the bowl gouge. When he was almost deep enough and close to the inside diameter he wanted, he used a

negative rake square end scraper to finish roughing out the lid to the sizes he wanted.

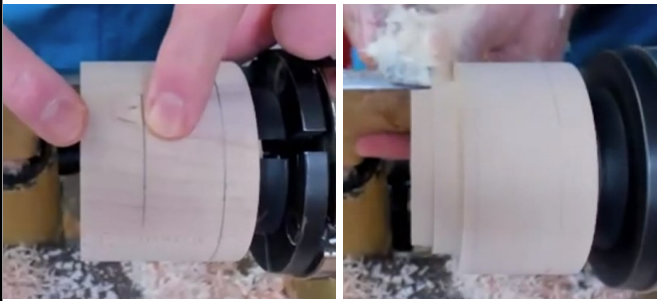


After he was satisfied with the hollowing of the lid, he measured the depth inside the lid to make sure it was close to what he wanted. It was then time to remove the lid, so he marked the piece between the number 1 and 4 jaws of the chuck so that he could accurately remount it later.



The next step is to hollow out the base. After mounting the base in the chuck, he faced off the end with the bowl gouge the same as he did with the lid. The next step was to measure the inside diameter of the lid and mark the end of the base with calipers at that dimension. He then used the skew with peeling cuts to cut the base to that diameter for the length of the overlap. The overlap was cut slightly oversize with a small taper.





The next step was to rough and hollow the base with the bowl gouge. This was done similar to how he hollowed the lid. After roughing out, he measured the depth to make sure it was sufficient and then marked the base between the number 1 and 4 jaws of the chuck so that he could accurately remount it later.



After the hollowing was complete, the next step is to again set the pieces aside to dry. Eric again taped the pieces together with the tenons end to end and marked them with the date and weight

of both pieces. The drying time for this is about 2 weeks or until the 2 pieces stop losing weight.

After the pieces have dried, it is time for the next step of turning. Eric again used a base and lid that was already hollowed out and dry to proceed with the demonstration. He first mounted the base in the chuck making sure that it



was properly lined up with the marks aligned to the number 1 and 4 chuck jaws. He then used a skew to very lightly skim cut the overlap to make sure it was



round. He then mounted the lid in the chuck making sure that it was properly lined up with the marks aligned to the number 1 and 4 chuck jaws. It was then time to fit the inside of the lid to the overlap on the base. He used the negative rake square end scraper to lightly cut the inside of the lid to almost fit onto the base and then cut a small chamfer on the opening.



The next step was to remount the base in the chuck. He then faced off the face of the overlap with a bowl gouge and then used a rounded negative rake scraper to hollow the base to about a 1/4" wall thickness. After the base was hollowed to depth, he added a small chamfer to the overlap and finished cutting the it so that it had a jam fit with the lid.



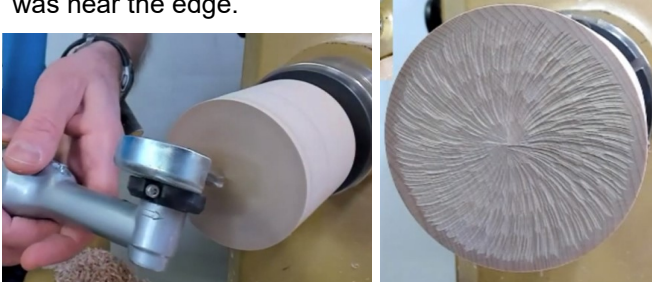
With the lid jam fit to the base, it was time to finish the top of the lid. The first step was to remove the tenon and face off the top with a bowl gouge. After the tenon was removed, Eric used an 8-tooth chain saw blade carving tool to power carve the top of the lid. This must be done very carefully as Eric said that "the power carver will cut



flesh and bone quicker than it will cut wood." Eric rested his arm on the tool rest to make sure the tool was held steady and then used the carver to cut the



wood. He had the lathe speed set at 3200 rpm and the carver at 13000 rpm. He started carving in the center of the lid and carefully made small diameter sweeps progressively larger across the top until he was near the edge.



After he was done with the carver, he used a skew to cut a groove at the edge of the texture to frame it within the lid.

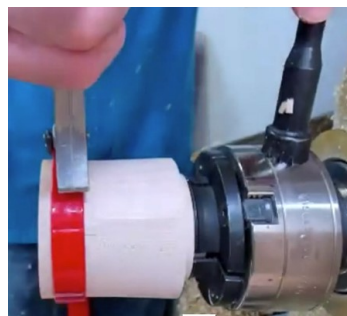
After he was done with the lid, Eric used the skew to shape the outside diameter of the box. He used gentle peeling cuts to put a slightly concave shape on the sides. When he was satisfied with the shape, it was time to dress off the edge



where the base and lid came together. The first step is to remove the lid. There are many ways to do this, but the easiest way Eric has found is to use a strap wrench. The wrench that Eric used is a "Grip It" with



a red strap. He emphasized the red strap as his experience with other strap wrenches is that the black straps sometimes slip and leave marks on the piece.



After separating the lid from the base, he used the skew to cut a small shadow line on the base where it meets the lid. This was a distinct feature that visually

separated the base from the lid without detracting from the overall appearance of the box.



The final steps in making the box are to let it set for a couple hours to release any remaining stress in the wood. After setting, the overlap is fine tuned so that the box is "breathable" and then the base is jam chucked to a block of wood and the tenon is removed and the bottom is finished. After finishing the bottom, the box is sanded up through the grits, usually starting at 220 and finishing with 600. All of the sanding that Eric does is with the lathe not running to eliminate any potential heat build up that could affect the fit of the lid. The finish that Eric uses on all of his boxes is OSMO Polyx-oil satin sheen. It is an easily applied penetrating finish that brings out the richness of the wood grain and is very durable. He usually puts one coat on the overlap and two BOWL coats on the rest of the box. He cautioned that applying more than one coat on the overlap can affect the fit of the lid as the clearance between the lid and the base is very small.

After the demonstration was complete, Eric gave a very informative discussion on both finishing and using a power grinder for texturing. Eric's demonstration today was excellent. Eric has handouts available on his website at [www.ericlofstrom.com/resources-demos-instruction](http://www.ericlofstrom.com/resources-demos-instruction) that detail how to make an endgrain box and several other subjects. Be sure to check them out.

### TIPS AND TRICKS AND QUESTIONS – OH MY!!!

A few months ago, I inaugurated the Tips and Tricks and Questions section of the newsletter. There were no submissions this month but that doesn't mean somebody doesn't have a good idea out there that could be shared. Be sure to send in your outstanding tip for next month.

### SAFETY NOTE

Be sure to use proper safety equipment including eye, hearing and breathing protection whenever you are working on projects in your workshop. Make sure that you fully understand and follow the safe operating procedures for every piece of equipment that you use.



## Calendar of Events

### PLEASE NOTE

**BWWT MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH BEGINNING AT 9:00AM**

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**BWWT Library Online Guide brought to you by the BWWT Club Librarians, Dirk Falther and Bob Hasenyager.**

The online guide lists the books and videos that are available in our club library along with descriptions on the subject matter and other useful information. Follow the link below to check it out.

<http://uh.cx/uVS1S>

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