



OHIO VALLEY WOODTURNERS

March 2017

WWW.OVWG.ORG

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

www.woodturner.org

Steve Pritchard

March 18, 2017



All of my life, I have been drawn to work with wood. In 2000, I found woodturning and have become addicted to it as a medium for expression. Like everything in nature, each piece of wood has its own character. Each piece is much like every other piece of that species, but each also has its own personality and appeal. I find few things in life more enjoyable and satisfying than seeing that personality emerge from a large wet lump of wood and doing my best to bring out its beauty and character.



To me, the process of exposing that inner beauty is in many ways, the most enjoyable part of the process. Listening to the hiss of a sharp gouge as it peels away wet shavings and watching them fly in a long arc to finally land in a huge pile is a singular experience. Sometimes it's difficult to remember that the original purpose was to make something useful and beautiful and not to just make shavings! However, in the end, we need to remember that the tree

spent a lifetime developing its unique qualities and we should try to preserve rather than destroy the fruits of that effort.

Nearly all of the wood I use comes from trees that have been felled due to disease, storms or development and destined to be ground into mulch or hauled to a landfill. While I know it's inevitable due to progress and our need for building materials, for me, it is always a little sad to see a tree down regardless of the reason. They look like fallen soldiers forgotten on the battle field. Woodturning is one of the few ways that we, as individuals, can preserve a little of a tree that once stood tall and proud and it's wonderful to be part of that community.



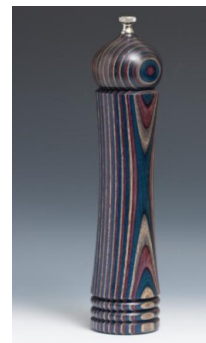
It has been said that when turning, your hands will tell you when a piece is finished. Wood is a material like no other and it will tell you, through your hands, that it is what it is meant to be. Each time that happens,

it is as if it were the first time and I am thankful that I am able to experience that moment again and again.



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Check out the website Events Calendar for all upcoming activities at the Learning Center

President's Letter



As I begin this letter on March 3, 2017, the daffodils and forsythia in my yard are in bloom so it must be spring already. Well, maybe not. The calendar says that spring doesn't start until March 20, and we just had a snow flurry come through that covered my deck and made the yard look white for a short period. So, maybe spring is not as close as it appears, but who knows for sure. Since the weather is not suitable for most outdoor activities, I encourage you to burrow down in your shop or the Learning Center and keep on turning.

All organizations such as ours are always concerned about membership levels. During the past year we saw our numbers increase significantly and finished 2016 with over 313 members. However, some of those members have not renewed for 2017. As I write this letter we now have 267 members - a drop of 46 from last year. Some may have simply forgotten to renew (especially if they don't use email and haven't seen the reminders we send out). There are probably many other reasons for this drop, but we aren't sure what they are. In the near future we will be contacting people to determine their reasons for non-renewal and we would like your help. If you know anyone who was a member last year and has not renewed for 2017 please take the time to let them know we miss them and would like to have them renew their membership.

This year's survey should be arriving in your inbox within the next few days. I understand that most of you don't like to do surveys, but I do hope that you will do us a favor and take a few minutes to complete it when it arrives. I think you will find it much easier this time since we are using **Survey Monkey** as our instrument. Those of us on the Board work very hard to structure a program of activities that meets your needs. We try to bring in guest demonstrators and home grown demonstrators who can give you insights into how you can improve your turning skills. We look for good turners who are also good instructors. We also work hard to schedule activities in the Learning Center that best suit your turning needs. Since we are not good at reading minds, we need your input on a recurring basis. The survey will enable you to tell us what you like, don't like, and how we can do a better job for you. Don't pass up this opportunity.

This is the time of year when there is often a lot of wood available due to spring tree trimming and cleanup of damage from storms. My thinking is that you should take advantage of this situation and get as much as you can rough turn in a reasonable time before it begins to crack and become unsuitable. If you come across a source that you would like to share with others feel free to pass information on to our webmaster, Dave Kratzer (webmaster@ovwg.org), so that he can notify other members. Please provide information about the type of wood available, location, who to contact, and any other pertinent information.

During our April 15, home grown meeting we are planning to have a silent auction that will provide funds for OVGW's scholarship fund. The items to be auctioned will be things that you bring and contribute to the Guild for that purpose. Please look around your shop and bring in some of those things that you haven't used for years and that might just be obstacles in your way. This may include turning gouges, sharpening tools, roughed out pieces, power tools, bowl blanks, uncut wood, etc. While this event is over a month away, I encourage you to not wait until the last minute to see what you can find.

If you haven't checked the March **Event Calendar** lately I urge you to do so. In addition to the many open shops scheduled during the month there are two **Turn and Learn** classes, an **Introduction to Woodturning** class, a **Sharpening** class, and a **Pyrography** group session. If you are interested in any of these please register at your earliest convenience so that we know you are coming.

Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 18, with Steve Pritchard as our guest Demonstrator. I hope you will check the **Home Page** of the OVWG website (www.ovwg.org) to learn about his turning. I look forward to seeing you on the 18th.

Jerry Warner, President

Upcoming/Ongoing Events

Mar 18, 2017	Steve Pritchard www.stevepritchardwoodturning.com/
Apr 15, 2017	Home Grown Demonstration
May 8-10, 2017	Rudy Lopez - Three Day Class
May 20, 2017	Michael Mocho www.mmocho.com/
Jun 17, 2017	Zeller Memorial Picnic
Sep 16, 2017	Kimberly Winkle Kimberly Winkle
Oct 13-15, 2017	Turning 2017
Oct 16-18, 2017	Nick Cook - Three Day Class



AAW's 31th Annual International Symposium in Kansas City, Missouri

June 22-25, 2017

Kansas City Convention Center

301 WEST 13TH STREET, KANSAS CITY, MO 64105

Things of Note

- OVWG name tags with a magnetic back are available for \$5 from member Chris Barrett. To get a name tag, send Chris an email at artisan022@icloud.com, telling him how you want your name to appear. He will have your name tag at a subsequent meeting.
- The OVWG now has **business cards** printed and available for members to be given out and posted at related wood turning businesses. The cards are available in the Learning Center.
- We continue to have opportunities to do demos in many different locales. We have an "approved demonstrator" list that receives an email with a chance to volunteer for demo events. If you would like to be on the approved demonstrator list, please contact Jerry Warner.

The February meeting featured Kentucky native Robin Costelle who lives and works outside of Louisville. Although he stated up front that he is not a professional woodturner or demonstrator, his presentation certainly was professional and informative. His presentation of the two-piece hollow form and finial, mixed with lots of good tips and information, as well as his own brand of humor, made for an enjoyable and worthwhile monthly meeting.

Two Piece Hollow Form

Robin began by stating that the two-piece hollow form is “accessible” to even beginning woodturners because you don’t need to invest in specialized hollowing tools to be able to create a simple hollow form that looks like a piece that was hollowed from a single blank.



Before he actually started turning his first blank, Robin took a few minutes to talk about his preferred tool, the ½” spindle gouge with a personalized grind. He stated that one of the drawbacks of grinding jigs used in most sharpening systems is that the

sharpened edge at any given point is concave. What he prefers is a convex, or “spoon shaped” end on his spindle gouge. This offers what he feels is a tool that is easier to use with a series of “micro bevels” that exist on the outside of the convex shape.

Starting with an undried (greenwood) hackberry blank, with the end grain parallel to the lathe, he rounded the blank and turned a tenon on each end.



When discussing the overall shape in terms of design, he noted that he likes to use the “rule of thirds” or “Golden proportion”, expressed mathematically as 1.618:1, it simply means that the widest diameter of the form, and hence the line where the blank is split, is

roughly a third of the distance from the top of the finished form, and that the overall height is 1.618 times the diameter at the widest point. Robin chose to demonstrate turning only the top portion of the greenwood blank.

The half that would represent the top in the finished form would eventually need to have a hole cut, drilled, or turned through once the two halves were reassembled to form the opening in the top of the finished hollow form. At this point, a decision is made to have the top flat, or have a vase-like opening, so provisions must be made to accommodate the desired appearance before the top half is removed from the lathe.



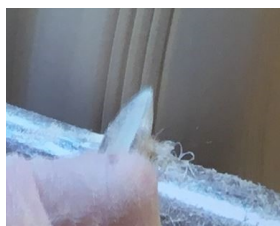
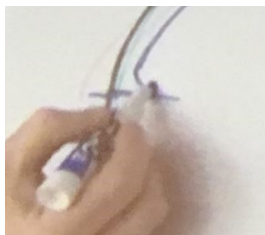
At this point, Robin had to switch between the greenwood project and a different piece that had already been dried. He took a few minutes to discuss his preferred method of drying partially turned blanks using denatured alcohol. Denatured alcohol works by drawing the water out of the wood, chemically bonding to it, and displacing it with alcohol, which then evaporates much quicker from the wood fibers once the piece is removed from the alcohol bath and exposed to air. The advantage of this method is that the piece can be re-turned in a much shorter time and the risk of checking or cracking from natural air drying is mitigated. For more on this process, see <http://www.wnywoodturners.com/articles/alcodrying/alcodrying.htm>.

With the new piece mounted on the lathe and the inside turned to the finished shape and appropriately sanded, he talked of the method that he uses to ensure that the mating surfaces of the two halves are flat. Using a block of wood that is longer than the diameter of the vessel, he placed sandpaper over the block and used it to create flat surfaces on the two halves to join them together. This was the same technique that Alan



Lacer touched on during his demonstration last year. Using PVA (Titebond) glue he joined the two halves on the lathe, using the tailstock to apply pressure on the glue joint. He noted that it is

generally a good practice to allow the mating surfaces to have a slightly thicker wall at the seam where the halves are to be joined. First for strength at the seam, and second, because whatever cut is



used to disguise the glue joint, there will be enough material behind it to offer enough strength to hold the halves together when the piece is finished.

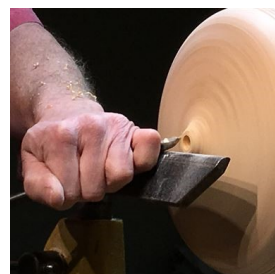
After the break, Robin spent a few minutes talking about his own particular method of hand grinding the spindle gouge that he used for the majority of the demonstration. Using the same process that Doug Thompson used to form the “fingernail” profile or outline of the cutting edge, he then switched to hand grinding to form a long, narrow point with the spoon-shaped, convex bevel edge that he favors. He had mentioned earlier that he uses the same method demonstrated by Johannes Michelsen. You can review this technique on Youtube by following the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZPwdaagps4M>

Returning to the workpiece, Robin demonstrated a unique method of making shearcuts on the outside of the form by anchoring the tool on the rest, with the toolrest slightly lowered, and tilting the tool high up on the outside of the piece and turning the tool over on its side and making contact with the work at roughly the 10 o’clock position. With the bevel in contact with the work along the long, narrow edge of the gouge, it becomes possible to obtain ultra-fine shavings. This technique is particularly useful on highly figured wood where tearout can become really difficult to eliminate without resorting to heavier grits of sandpaper to obtain a smooth finish. Robin noted that it is especially gratifying to make very clean cuts on difficult grain and enhances the satisfaction of producing woodturning projects.

For the size of the piece that he was demonstrating, he stated that the wall thickness should be approximately 3/16 of an inch. This gives the piece enough strength while allowing natural movement of the wood without stressing the joint or making the piece too heavy. When

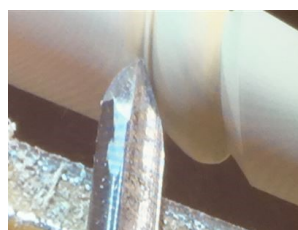
cutting through the top, the options available are to form a “spout” shaped opening or flat surface to accept a lid or finial top. On an endgrain piece, a peeling cut can be made from the inside out towards the opening. On face grain, the process is the same, but Robin prefers endgrain pieces because the wood movement is radial about the center and generally makes turning the opening easier.

Throughout his demonstration, he often spoke about form. He prefers to have a small base or foot and have the overall shape of the piece follow a definite pattern or form that “flows” from top to bottom in and is pleasing. The glue joint for the two halves of the piece was about a third of the distance from the top and was the widest part of the shape, Robin then demonstrated the usefulness of the long point spindle gouge to make a series of three beads that disguised the glue joint and provided an interesting finishing touch to the overall shape. This concluded the two-part hollow form demonstration and to compliment the piece, Robin then went into his demonstration of finial turning.



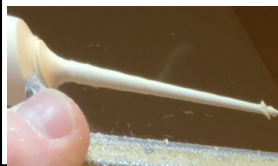
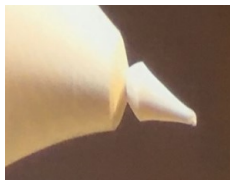
Turning a Finial

Continuing into his discussion of design elements, Robin stated the finial is a piece that is intended to compliment the piece and should be of a contrasting wood that finishes the top of the overall form and in some ways, highlights the features of the piece that it is intended to finish off. He used a pen blank made of very light colored holly and began by rounding



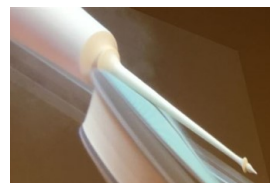
the blank in a pen blank or “spigot” jaws as one would do for any spindle turning. The choice of holly as the material for the blank was because that it turns relatively easy and has the inherent property of being able to maintain sharp, crisp edges on the finished piece. He then turned

down the tailstock end to nearly a point and pulled the tailstock away. Working from the tailstock end, he narrowed the long point, with a gentle taper, working towards the headstock end with beads and coves that matched or mimicked the overall shape of the hollow form. The idea was that the finial would more or less be a miniature of the hollow form that the finial would be



placed on. Throughout his whole demonstration, Robin spoke of his desire to replicate the design form of Cindy Drozda who is well known for

her work of producing finials. She even has her own "signature" spindle gouge that is sharpened very much like the one Robin was using.



The long tapered grind lends itself very well to the close, tight radiuses used on finial work. Cindy has commercially available DVD's as well as several Youtube videos on the subject. For more information on finials, including definitions and design considerations, please see the following link to an article by Ed Malesky of the Jacksonville, FL woodturners group.

http://jaxturners.org/tech/Finial_Demo.pdf

JUNE CONTEST

ADD A FINIAL TO A TURNED PIECE

FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS TO FOLLOW

Appalachian Festival

Want to have some fun and spend quality time with your fellow woodturners?

Well then join us at the 48th Annual Appalachian Festival which is just around the corner! As usual, it will be held on Mothers' Day weekend, May 12-14 at Coney Island! For several years, the Ohio Valley Woodturners Guild has been a part of the celebration of this event. Each year our members, along with other artisans, gather along the Ohio River to conduct demonstrations in an effort to educate the public about differing art forms. As woodturners, the Appalachian Festival provides an excellent opportunity to demonstrate and educate as well as offer products for sale. You can participate for a few hours or stay for all three days. It is great fun interacting with the public as well as an excellent opportunity to promote the art of woodturning.

If you would like to join us and help OVWG fulfill its goal of educating others about woodturning, please contact Mary Carol or David (Information below). If you plan on selling your turned items there is a rental fee for the space plus table rental. The cost for a 10' x 10' space will be around \$100.00 (Half of a space is also available) and the rental fee for the tables is \$10.00 each.

Please respond to one of the following if you plan to attend and sell or demonstrate or both:

Mary Carol Meinken - marycarolmeinken@gmail.com 513-521-1517

David Wright - davidwright@fuse.net 513-805-8335

Respond by 4/15/17

Show and Tell



Segmented Box
Alan Tapp



Bowl from a Board
Cynthia Cwi



Textured Maple Bowl
KC Kendall



Segmented Hollow Form
Raymond Feltz



Bowl from a Board
Patricia Wilkenson



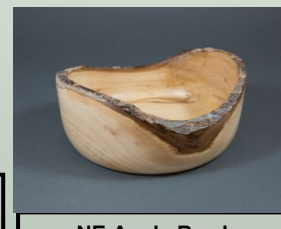
Segmented Bell
Patricia Wilkenson



Dyed Ash Hollow Form
Dick Manteuffel



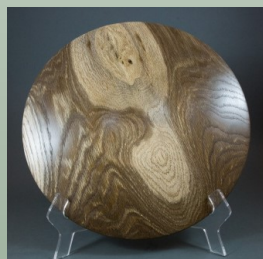
East Indian Rosewood
Dick Manteuffel



NE Apple Bowl
Lynn Trump



Redwood Burl Platter
Mike Pankion



Oak Platter
Robert Hendrickson



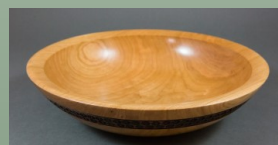
Korean Lilac
Robert Hare



Bowl of Acorns
John Richey



Cherry and Padauk
Lynn Trump



Cherry Bowl
John Shannon



Hickory Tray
David Scott



Beaded Rim Maple Bowl
Tom Walters



Mahogany Bowl
Cynthia Cwi



Tops in a Bowl
Gary Vance



Cherry Burl Bowl
Gale Bigham

Show and Tell



Crochet Hooks
Michael Ball



Segmented Ornament
Patricia Wilkenson



Hollow Form
Johnny Bowman



NE Cherry Platter
KC Kendall



Maple Cheese Tray
KC Kendall



Yew Root Hollow Form
Mike Pankion



Robert Hendrickson



Mesquite Tray
Lynn Trump



Inlace Cheese Slicer
Ron Cruze



Hackberry & Maple
Johnny Bowman



Segmented Light Holder
Alan Tapp



Locust Bowl
Johnny Bowman



Ambrosia Maple
Mike Pankion



Bocote Tool Handle
Robin Costelle



Segmented Bowls
Patricia Wilkenson



Maple Burl Bowl
Dick Manteuffel



Dyed Box
KC Kendall



Bowl with Epoxy Band
KC Kendall



Decorated Cherry HF
Nancy Bowman



Dyed Sycamore Bowl
Kurt Foglesong



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OVWG Mentors

Do you need help getting started or working out a problem? Call any of the names listed below. As always, there is **NO CHARGE** to members of the Ohio Valley Woodturners Guild. We love to share our woodturning passion. Call us, we want to help you.

Central: Dave Morrical 513-771-5205
John Albachten 513-325-9002
Mary Carol Meinken 513-521-1517
Dave Kratzer 513-290-9609
Highland County Nancy Bowman 937-239-1980
Loveland: John Lannom 513-683-3129
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Dayton: Jim Burrowes 937-371-9426
Lowell Converse 937-426-2646
René Keyzer-André 937-277-4717
Gary Vance 937-667-4520

Tipp City
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Kenton Cnty: Pete Kekel 859-653-3520
Campbell Cnty: Keith Bundy 859-781-5414

Indiana:
Southeast: Gerald Williams 812-689-6545

Contact: KC Kendall, Mentoring Chairperson, with any changes or if you'd like to join these talented volunteers.

Meetings

Demonstration meetings are generally held the third Saturday of the month (September through June) from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Registration and set up starts at 8:00am. Meeting cost (includes lunch) is \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers when there is a professional demonstrator and \$5 for members and \$10 for nonmembers for "home grown" demonstrators. Annual membership dues are \$30 (\$25 for AAW members) for the first year (includes name badge) and \$25 (\$20 for AAW members) for renewal, payable upon joining.