



# Finger Lakes Woodturners I

A Special Interest Group of the  
Rochester Woodworkers Society  
and a Chapter of

The American Association of Woodturners



| Pg | Contents   |
|----|--|
| 1  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From the Chair</li> <li>• Calendar of Events</li> </ul>         |
| 2  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board meeting (August)</li> <li>• Discussion Points</li> </ul>  |
| 3  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treasurer's Report</li> <li>• From the Editor</li> </ul>        |
| 4  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September's Featured Talk</li> </ul>                            |
| 5  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bowl Gouge Basics by Lou Stahlman</li> </ul>                    |
| 6  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hints &amp; Pointers</li> <li>• Classified Ads</li> </ul>       |
| 7  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mentor Contacts</li> <li>• FLWT I Board of Directors</li> </ul> |
| 8  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show &amp; Share Photos</li> </ul>                              |

Meetings are held from 6:30 to 9:00 PM on the 3rd Thursday of each month at WOODCRAFT in Henrietta, NY. *Sept 07 meeting attendance was 36.*

## From the Chair by Mike Hachey



*Mike and our motley crew of woodturners*

## Calendar of Events & Courses

| 2007 / 08 |       | Event   | For More Info   |
|-----------|-------|---|---|
| Oct       | 12-13 | 5th annual Totally Turning Symposium, Albany, NY  | <a href="http://www.totallyturning.com/">http://www.totallyturning.com/</a>                 |
| Oct       | 15    | Deadline to let Mike H know if you're attending Oct 20 West Penn Hardwood trip to Olean | <a href="http://www.westpennhardwoods.com/">www.westpennhardwoods.com/</a>                  |
| Oct       | 18    | Oct FLWT I meeting, Jim Echter, Bowl Turning  |   |
| Oct       | 20    | West Penn Hardwoods open house for Buffalo/Rochester woodturners                        | <a href="http://www.westpennhardwoods.com/">www.westpennhardwoods.com/</a>                  |
| Nov       | 9-11  | Woodworks, York, PA   | <a href="http://www.woodworksevents.com/">http://www.woodworksevents.com/</a>               |
| Dec       |       | Christmas Party   | More to follow  |
| Jun       | 20-22 | AAW Annual Symposium, Richmond, VA  | <a href="http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2008/">http://www.woodturner.org/sym/sym2008/</a> |

Welcome back, welcome back, welcome back! Our season is just starting to rev-up. We are starting the season with both good and bad news; good because all members were able to find a seat for the meeting and yet bad because we had to split the club into two groups. Both groups are still communicating and we are planning on a combined Christmas party in December .... more info will be provided in November; the only thing we know for sure is that it will be at a different location that can hold all of us. By the way, our club is FLWT #1 and the other is FLWT #2.

>

---

## From the Chair (cont'd)

Our last presentation before the summer break was on chucking your work and our first presentation this year was eight methods on how to chuck a dowel for turning. More specifically, it was how to chuck a dowel for turning TOPS for the Children's Hospital. Club #2 has challenged us to see which club can turn the most TOPS. Corian and dowels were available at the meeting and will be available again at the October meeting. Completed TOPS will be collected at October and November meetings.

The club's new Jet mini lathe has been purchased for doing presentations. Jim Hotaling built a very nice portable lathe stand which can transport both the lathe and lathe accessories from the vehicle to the demonstration locations. Jim has already test driven it by doing a presentation at the Wesley Community Home on Goodman Street. Nice job Jim!

Our club's treadle lathe is up for sale. It was decided by the BOD that the treadle lathe is too big and heavy to transport to any presentation; it also needs some work to make it run efficiently, so it is up for sale to the highest bidder. The cost to purchase the lathe was \$75.00 and this does not include the cost for shipping. We are working on getting pictures for members to browse and hope to have them available for the October meeting. The plan is to sell the lathe to the highest bidder and the last day for bids is Sunday December 2 (that way, the proud new owner still has time to wrap it for his or her spouse as a Christmas present. The current bid is \$25.00 and all bids will be in \$5.00 increments.

## Board Meeting Discussion Points by Mike Hachey **August 2007 meeting**

- RWS August 11 membership drive at Woodcraft
- Financial Report – AAW grant; purchase of accessories; splitting the treasury
- Mark St Leger demo vs. hands-on any how to pay for it; decided to bypass for now
- Turning TOPS challenge from club #2
- Name tags & paper vs. plastic
- FLWT manual
- News letter distribution
- Treadle lathe status/sale
- Club lathe usage and guidelines
- What to do with the club owned turning tools – sell via auction to members
- Selecting this season's presentations
- Talk about this season's challenge projects

*The Finger Lakes Woodturners I Club greatly appreciates the facilities and support provided by Woodcraft, Henrietta Plaza, 1100 Jefferson Road, Henrietta, New York 14623. Thanks Sean!*

---

# Treasurers Report by Kevin Hart

Period 6/1/07—8/31/07

## Financial Summary

|                                    |                   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Beginning Balance</b>           | <b>\$1,576.52</b> |
| Total Income                       | \$843.00          |
| Total Expenses                     | \$985.81          |
| <b>Closing Balance<sup>1</sup></b> | <b>\$1,433.71</b> |

## Income / Expense Statement

| <b>Income</b>       |                 | <b>Expenses</b>           |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| AAW Grant           | \$800.00        | 2 Jet mini Lathes         | \$593.98        |
| Other               | \$43.00         | Notebook expenses         | \$204.90        |
|                     |                 | Talon Chuck & tail center | \$186.93        |
| <b>Total Income</b> | <b>\$843.00</b> | <b>Total Expenses</b>     | <b>\$985.81</b> |

1. Not included here, \$810.32 of the closing balance was transferred to Finger Lakes Woodturners II in September 07 because of the club split.

## From the Editor by Dave Smith

During my business career, I developed the habit of defining the objectives of a project before I tackled it. As I thought about what we should be trying to accomplish with our newsletter, here's what I came up with:

1. Education: Help us become better woodturners via tips, pointers, & educational articles
2. Keep us informed: Provide a calendar of club activities and related events, and advise about our financial status and other issues and actions important to our club
3. Acknowledge accomplishments: Enable members to show off their woodturnings and woodturning - related accomplishments
4. Bond club members: Help us learn about one another and remember the names and faces of fellow club members
5. Build interest: Generate member enthusiasm and help obtain member involvement in our club and its activities
6. Help our members locate woodturning tools and materials
7. Help make woodturning fun!

One area in particular where I think we can improve with the newsletter's help is identified in item 4, especially regarding the names and faces of our club members. I have a few ideas in this regard, which I will bring up at our next board session and advise of the results at our Oct meeting.

Please feel free to email or call if you think I've missed anything important or have other comments about the newsletter. Also, please forward any articles, pointers or tips you think might be of interest to our members.

## September's Featured Talk Presented by Mike Hachey

Photos by Dave Smith

At our September meeting, Mike Hachey, our illustrious leader, gave a great talk and combined 3 demos in one: Dowel Chucking, Making Tops, and Using the Chatter Tool.



*Above: Mike demonstrates the solid method for making tops*

Nice job Mike! Mike discussed and demonstrated two ways to make tops using solid and dowel methods. In the solid method, the entire top and axel are turned of one piece, creating an accurate, stable top that requires no gluing. The solid method's downside is that it requires more wood than does the dowel method.



*To right: Mike demonstrates a very clever method of scroll chucking a dowel without marring it, by making a round, split wooden insert, which, when tightened in the chuck, grips the dowel securely without damage.*

For the dowel method, Mike discussed and demonstrated the advantages and disadvantages of several different dowel chucking methods including:

- Using a waste block cylinder with a hole to glue in the dowel
- Hose clamp collet
- Scroll chuck with spigot jaws
- Scroll chuck with split wood insert
- Jacobs chuck
- Woodcraft dowel chuck
- Beall collet system

In conclusion, Jim Echter shared his significant spindle turning expertise to help members understand how to control the skew chisel.

*To right: Mike demonstrates another secure way to hold a dowel without damaging it. The wood collet chuck closes via a hose clamp on its outside diameter. Mike advises putting a round "sock" over the hose clamp to keep your knuckles intact when the lathe is running.*



---

## Bowl Gouge Basics by Lou Stahlman

1. When I think about bowl gouges, here are some of the things that come to mind:  
The bowl gouge is the workhorse of woodturning. It is one of the two turning tools that can be used whether you are turning between centers, spindle turning or face turning. (The other is the scraper).
2. Buy the best tool you can afford. You'll worry about the price for two weeks; you'll worry about the quality for as long as you own the tool.
3. To learn to use a bowl gouge safely and quickly, take a course with a qualified turner.
4. A bowl gouge is used to:
  - a. Remove flat surfaces from a turning blank so that the blank becomes a smooth cylinder
  - b. Shape the outside of the work piece
  - c. Hollow the inside of the work piece
5. A work piece is round and smooth when:
  - a. It produces no ghost images when spinning
  - b. There is no tool chatter or knock
6. The challenge of using a bowl gouge is to produce a smooth surface with a round tool. Since the cutting edge of a bowl gouge is curved so sharply, it often leaves behind a series of small ridges on the work piece. (See next month's newsletter for a solution possibility).
7. Bowl gouges are used at relatively low lathe speeds, say 750 RPM or less.
8. In use, a bowl gouge should be level or point a little uphill on the tool rest.
9. The tool rest should be just a shade below the horizontal centerline so that the tip of the bowl gouge touches the center of the work piece when the gouge is level on the rest. Note: Items 8 & 9 suggest safe starting positions for a novice turner. As your proficiency improves with practice, you can adjust the tool rest and handle height to what works best for you.
10. Your right hand controls most of action of a bowl gouge; the left hand simply holds the gouge down on the tool rest.
11. Twisting the tool with the right hand controls the quality of the cut, i.e., by finding "the sweet spot" on the cutting edge.
12. Swinging the tool to the left or right controls the direction of the cut. Making longer cuts may require moving your entire body to maintain correct tool position.
13. Pushing the gouge forward along the axis of the handle controls the depth of the cut, i.e., the amount of wood removed.
14. The bevel rubs the work piece just behind the cut.
15. To help you develop a feel for cutting with a bowl gouge, start with the lathe turned off:
  - a. Aim the flute in the direction you want to cut
  - b. Touch the bottom half of the flute to the work piece
  - c. With your left hand, turn the headstock spindle while raising the handle of the gouge
  - d. Continue until the tool begins to produce a thin shaving
  - e. Twist the handle slowly left and right until you find the sweet spot...that part of the cutting edge which cuts best.
16. Do not push or pull the bowl gouge to make it go forward. (When used correctly, a bowl gouge can be used with the left hand at your side.)

References: **The Lathe Book** (2001) by Ernie Conover  
**Woodturning: A Foundation Course** by Keith Rowley  
**Turning Wood** by Richard Raffan  
Google using search terms such as "bowl gouge," "woodturning instruction, pictures tutorial"

---

## Hints & Pointers

**If you're looking for a good introductory book on turning** (either for yourself or to recommend to someone just starting out), Keith Rowley's *Woodturning: A Foundation Course* is likely to fill the bill. He covers basic tool control, and walks the reader through projects for spindle turning as well as faceplate turning. He also has plans for several necessary turning accessories, including a very sturdy bench (which I have made and found very satisfactory.) The RWS library has this book, along with the video. One word of caution on the video; Rowley's delivery is so low key you may find that it puts you to sleep. It did me. *Kevin Hart*

**Woodworking (December 2007) has a article by Bob Flexner**, the finishing guru, who demystifies wipe-on varnishes and oil varnish finishes. Of interest to woodturners is a sidebar on "salad bowl finish," which turns out to be nothing more than varnish thinned with mineral spirits. Apparently any varnish is "food safe" once it has dried, according to Flexner. You can make your own by mixing varnish and mineral spirits; Flexner suggests a mix of three parts varnish to one part mineral spirits. He also suggests using the "smell" test to determine if the finish has dried sufficiently to make it food safe. *Kevin Hart*

**In the same issue of Woodworking there is article on turning a low four-legged stool**, by Chris Child. He illustrates a vertical tool rest he uses in turning the legs, which apparently prevents the gouge from slipping and damaging a delicate fillet in the design. *Kevin Hart*

**Popular Woodworking (October 2007) features a well illustrated article by Judy Ditmer** on turning oval tool handles. She mounts the blanks in a "screw chuck" that consists of a lag screw (with head removed) mounted in a Jacobs chuck. The handle gets its "oval" by offsetting the wide end, so the project can serve as an introduction to offset turning. *Kevin Hart*

**For fine finishing my bowls**, I really like Norton's 3X sandpaper, available at Woodcraft, especially in grits from 220—400. An alternative is Finkat paper, although you have to buy that mail order. What I like about both is their uniform grain, good durability and flexibility to conform to my turned shapes. First, I tear a 9 x 11 sheet into 6 equal pieces. Then, I fold each piece into thirds such that the sheet's abrasive doesn't scrub against itself. (Folding a piece into quarters results in abrasive against abrasive, prematurely destroying your sandpaper). After power sanding to 220 grit with the lathe running, I stop the lathe and sand by hand with 320 & 400 grits with the grain, eliminating any circular sanding rings created when the lathe was running. *Dave Smith*

## Classified Ads

### **For Sale**

- Older Black & Decker Shop Vac, 35 gal cardboard drum on wheels, uses standard 2.5 inch hose (not provided), works good for chip collection. \$20.00 OBO. dsmith43@rochester.rr.com or 244-1535
- Cast Iron radial blower for dust collector, Sturtevant # 1, 6 inch intake / exhaust, 12 inch impeller, refitted with ball bearing pulley shaft, no motor \$50 OBO. dsmith43@rochester.rr.com or 244-1535

### **Wanted to Buy**

- Does anyone want to buy any turning or woodworking tools? If so, please email the editor.

## Mentor Contacts<sup>1</sup>

| Name             | Day Tel                 | Eve Tel  | Email  | Skills / Specialty  |
|------------------|-------------------------|----------|--|---|
| Bill Tschorke    | 865-1971                | 865-1971 |  | General turning   |
| Tom Pedlow       |                         | 237-3962 |  | General turning   |
| Erwin A. Tschanz | 271-5263<br>(Dec – Mar) | 271-5263 |  | Historical pieces, Bowls, Plates, Goblets, Boxes, Boney antler horn |
| Ralph Moser      | 359-0986                | 359-0986 | <a href="mailto:ralphmoser@frontier.net">ralphmoser@frontier.net</a>       | Faceplate turning, bowls, etc.                                      |
| Jim Echter       | 377-9389                | 377-9389 | <a href="mailto:jechter@rochester.rr.com">jechter@rochester.rr.com</a>     | Spindle & faceplate turning, sharpening                             |
| Lou Stahlman     | 248-2097                | 248-2097 | <a href="mailto:lstahlman@rochester.rr.com">lstahlman@rochester.rr.com</a> | How to cut wood   |

1. **Here's a great way for you to improve your turning skills.** FLWT I has award winning and expert turners who, at no cost, are willing to share their expertise one-to-one with other club members. In some cases, mentoring may be as simple as getting advice from a mentor in a one time conversation. In other cases, it may expand to include regular hands-on sessions over a lathe. The exact nature is up to you and your mentor. If you feel you could benefit from mentoring, please organize your thoughts about your needs and expectations and then contact an appropriate volunteer mentor above to determine if he or she is a match and available.

## FLWT I Board of Directors 2007—2008

| Position                                 | Name          | Day Tel  | Eve Tel  | Email  |
|--|---------------|----------|----------|--|
| <b>Chair</b>                             | Mike Hachey   | 723-1395 | 723-1395 | <a href="mailto:hacheymd@aol.com">hacheymd@aol.com</a>                   |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                         | Kevin Hart    | 442-5789 | 442-5789 | <a href="mailto:kdhart@rochester.rr.com">kdhart@rochester.rr.com</a>     |
| <b>Secretary &amp; Newsletter Editor</b> | Dave Smith    | 244-1535 | 244-1535 | <a href="mailto:dsmith43rochester.rr.com">dsmith43rochester.rr.com</a>   |
| <b>Tool Librarian</b>                    | TBD           | -        | -        |  |
| <b>Advisors</b>                          | Rich Connelly | 889-4996 | 889-4996 | <a href="mailto:rconnell@rochester.rr.com">rconnell@rochester.rr.com</a> |
|  | Bill Costanzo | 865-3866 | 865-3866 | <a href="mailto:adsdad@rochester.rr.com">adsdad@rochester.rr.com</a>     |
|  | Jim Echter    | 377-4838 | 377-4838 | <a href="mailto:jechter@rochester.rr.com">jechter@rochester.rr.com</a>   |
|  | Debbie Hachey | 723-1395 | 723-1395 | <a href="mailto:hacheymd@aol.com">hacheymd@aol.com</a>                   |
|  | Jim Hotaling  | 223-4877 | 223-4877 | <a href="mailto:jhotal2198@aol.com">jhotal2198@aol.com</a>               |
|  | Bill Tschorke | 865-1971 | 865-1971 |  |

**Show and Share** Photos by Dave Smith

