



# Finger Lakes Woodturners II

a Special Interest Group of the  
Rochester Woodworkers Society



[www.rochesterwoodworkers.org](http://www.rochesterwoodworkers.org)

March 2008

Meetings 2nd Thursday of each month at  
WOODCRAFT in Henrietta, NY at 6:30 PM

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## Upcoming Events

**March Mtg** - Ed DeMay Dust Collection and Wood Safety

**April 5** Turning Pens and Bottle Stoppers - Mike & Debbie Hachey at Woodcraft

**April 19** - Don Geiger Turning Demo sponsored by RWS at Woodcraft

**June 20 to 22** - AAW Symposium, Richmond Virginia

## From the Board by Ed DeMay

Just a little note to update everyone on the some things that the Board is working on. Some of this may be a re-hash of issues that everyone is aware of. The RWS Board of Directors has asked each of the SIG to have a representative of each of the SIG's as an active member of the RWS Board. This has come about due to the search for a new location for workshops by RWS and realizing that that there are many concern to be considered. The search for a new meeting location is continuing. Finding a location centrally located and for a reasonable price is the main focus. Cheap locations off of the main stream are available and centrally located locations come at a steep price that may or may not be sustainable but the search continues. If any one has a suggestion for a location here are some of the parameters. A location with 1500 + square feet, ample parking with good lighting for 60 ish cars, safe location (nothing like having a great seminar or meeting and then have to fight your way back to the car only to find the tires and battery are gone!!!), good access to bring in materials, equipment etc. That pretty much is it, so as you are driving around looking for bowl blanks and free logs along the road keep in mind a good location. If you find something please contact Jerry Sheridan, Ward Donahue or Ed DeMay.

This month will focus on bottle stoppers for the challenge project. Small gifts like these make excellent gifts for friends and family. A bottle stopper makes a wonderful gift for those just say thanks occasions. Bring in all of the stoppers you have made and don't forget we are donating some to the Farmington Rotary .

This months discussion will be about dealing with wood dusts and the hazards associated with it and safety concerns given by me.

## Last Months Meeting by Ed DeMay

Last months demonstrators were focusing on finishing. Ralph Mosher has perfected his technique and as some one said when ever you think about finishing you have to think about that produced by Ralph. Ralph sand through 1200 European grit or the FEPA Grading System. That equates to approx 600 American grit or the CAMI Grading System. He then saturates the bowl on the lathe with and oil finish using a lint free paper towel and reapplies until the surface is uniformly covered and then wipes it off . Then applying power to the lathe he rubs the bowl with a dry clean paper towel to give a uniform appearance. The bowl



is allowed to dry for at least 4 to 6 hours and over night depending on the drying time of the finish completing the first coat. Ralph then re-sands the bowl using the last grade of paper used on the unfinished bowl. The second coat of finish is then reapplied in the same manner as the first wiping off the excess with a clean paper towel. The lathe is again powered up 300 to 600 rpm and rubbed down with a clean paper towel. The finish is allowed to completely dry . From here on in a thin coat is applied while turning the lathe by hand and finally rubbed out with the lathe running. No sand paper is used after the 2nd coat. Ralph then applies as many more coats until he is satisfied with the end result which is typically 5 to 7. Lastly he applies a coat of past wax and is finished with another great bowl.

Jim Duffy also demonstrated the Beal Buffing System. Jim's choice for finishing. Jim said that he sands to any degree desired and probably to 400 grit American Standard grit. He stated that you can use finish or just begin buffing the project. Jim is shown at right with an external buffing wheel but there are also round buffs for the inside of bowls available too. The first grade used is Tripoli and the object is buffed inside and out. This step is followed by using whit diamond compound that removes the residue form the first step. Lastly Jim applies a coat of Carnauba Wax and continues with a light buffing. It is important to know that the buffing wheels are different for each step. And dust protection should be used to keep small particles of buffing compounds from entering your lungs.



The questions for both Ralph and Jim continued at length and another great demo was successfully concluded. Thanks to both for the time and effort to help educate all of us on two methods of enhancing our turnings.

## Are you Thinking about Upgrading your Lathe by Jerry Sheridan

I have been woodturning for about eight years, but I think I have gone through more machines than many Woodturners do in a life time. I started out with a small bench top machine and motor. Then I moved up to a \$99.00 machine from Harbor Freight, I could now turn a bigger bowl.... Then I went to a small Jet variable speed machine, now I am off of the work bench and onto a stand and can change speed while the machine is running..... Then I moved up to a large Jet, now I can rough turn my apple bowl blanks with out having to chase the lathe around the shop.... Then I moved up to the Powermatic 2036, now I got a very serious lathe- 20 inch bowl capacity, electronic variable speed and a massive machine you got to be happy with..... At this point, my wife has been a supporter of my hobby and the money I spend on it.

I have a passion for woodturning and had made the decision that sometime down the road, I would buy one more lathe. About a year ago, I realized I was between children in college... one graduated and one a year away from starting college. If I was going to have money for a new lathe it was now or another 4 years. How does the saying go? "Don't put off doing something until tomorrow if you can do it today."

Was the new lathe going to make a me a better woodturner... no, was there anything wrong with my Powermatic or did it have any shortcomings..... absolutely not. I'm of the opinion that this machine has the greatest value of any in its price range. I just decided that someone with my passion for turning deserved an even better machine. Now is the first time that I'm dealing with a little more sensitive subject at the diner table, but I'm the man of the house, I get my way, I got my new lathe. It's just coincidental that my wife got to redecorate her living room at the same time.

My taste in lathes, at this point, had moved up to the level of something along the lines of a Stubby or a Oneway. This turned out to be a very difficult decision. Both machines were priced about the same, way more than I should be spending. Both machines had a very strong "Fan" base. There are countless Oneway owners in our area and no shortage of very positive comments and opinions. Because of its limited U.S. distribution, a Stubby was harder to feel out. Here in the Northeast John Jordan, from Tennessee was the sole distributor for the Australian made machine. John certainly did a good job of saturating the Southeast. Stubby and I went back and forth for weeks and couldn't make a decision to the point where I wished that I hadn't sold my Powermatic. I think that I would have been perfectly happy with it for another four years. Finally I had to make a decision- flipped a coin and bought the Stubby. If I knew I would be very happy with either machine, each having its own unique features, one possible issue I had to deal with was the limited availability of Stubby information and service. The U.S. Distributor for Stubby today is Bill Rubinstein, St Charles, Missouri. Bill was helpful and worked hard to help solve my problems - A faulty motor was replaced in three days. There is no question but my frustrations in setting up this machine would have been far greater had it not been for the help of some of my FLWT friends. Thank goodness these guys realized that if Jerry picks up a wrench, things are going to get worse.

I love my new machine. I'm glad the buying decision is behind me. I look forward to many years of wood turning on the Stubby, unless a new machine comes along.....well let's not go there now!

Let me point out one more positive aspect of buying this lathe, I love proving people wrong. Most of you have commonly heard this saying amongst Woodturners "After you have bought all the associated accessories, tools and toys to support your woodturning, your lather is the least expensive aspect of your hobby".....yeah right.....well buy a Stubby or Oneway.....They're way wrong."

P.S. If anyone wants to take a Stubby for a ride come to Downtown Bergen and see me I enjoy visitors.....

**Abrasive Grading Systems** - There are three standard grading systems available, each grading the grit particle size to different tolerances:

- Coated Abrasives manufacturer’s Institute (CAMI)
- Federation of European Producers Association (FEPA)
- Japanese Industrial Standard (JIS)

There is also a micron-grade system, but there is no industry-wide standard for measuring micron-grade sandpapers.

Even though the grading systems use different tolerances for sizing the grains, all of the systems use the same methods. Particles of the coarsest grits up to about 220 are graded by sifting the particles through a series of wire mesh screens that have a specific number of openings per inch. The smaller grit sizes are graded through an air-flotation process that separates the particles by weight.

In North America, all sandpaper manufacturers for the automotive aftermarket previously used the CAMI system for all grit ranges. The CAMI system tolerates a wider range of grit sizes than other grading systems and often contains more than one grit size on one sheet of sandpaper. For example, a 200 grit CAMI sandpaper often contains 180 grit as well as 320 grit particles. This is acceptable for the coarser grits, where a finished surface is not the goal, so the CAMI system is still used for grades coarser than 80 grit by most major abrasive manufacturers.

The European FEPA system uses a tighter tolerance for particle size and is used for the finer grades, 80 grit and higher, by most major abrasive manufacturers. These abrasives are identified by the letter "P" in front of the grit size, such as P120 (see below). When you look at the chart it can be seen that CAMI and FEPA grades don't differ much in scratch pattern until grades finer than 180 grit, then they start to differ widely. A CAMI grade of 600 is equivalent to a FEPA grade of 1200 grit. CAMI 1000 is equivalent to FEPA 2500

COAT ABRASIVES CONVERSION CHART			
CAMI GRADE	FEPA GRADE	JIS GRADE	MICRON SIZE
			5
1200			
	2500	2000	8
1000		1500	10
800	1500	1200	13
	1200	1000	15
600	1000		
500		800	20
400	800		
	600	600	24
360		500	
	500	400	30
320	400		
	360	320	
280	320	280	50
	280		
240		240	
	240	220	60
220	220		
	180	180	
180	180	150	
150	150	120	
	120	120	
120	120	100	100
100	100	80	
	80	60	
80	60		
60		60	
	50	50	
50	40	40	
	40	36	
40	36	36	
36		30	
	30	30	
30		24	
24	24	24	
	20	20	
20	20		
16			



The Finger Lakes Woodturners appreciates the support that the Woodcraft Store, Henrietta Plaza, 1100 Jefferson Road, Henrietta, New York 14623 has given us by allowing us to use their facilities. Thanks Sean.

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