

Finger Lakes Woodturners

A Chapter of The American Association of Woodturners



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FLWT meetings are held from 6:45 to 9:00 PM (pre-meeting Show and Share starts at 6:00 PM) on the 3rd Thursday of each month. For the rest of this season, our meetings will be held at the Isaac Heating and Air Conditioning University classroom, 180 Charlotte St, Rochester, 14607. For more information, go to http://fingerlakeswoodturners.com/.

From the Chair

by Jim Echter

While all of you have been working on embellishing your challenge pieces for the meeting, your Board of Directors has been busy planning a great lineup of events for the club. Last month I talked about momentum. Now that we've settled into our new meeting location at Isaac Heating and Air Conditioning and have had two months of



outstanding demonstrations, your Board is focusing on taking the club to the next level.

It is my pleasure to announce that Dave Smith and Kevin Hart have successfully led the charge in getting the club incorporated in New York State! We are officially now known as the **Finger Lakes Woodturners Association, Inc.** Luckily we were also able to find a reasonably priced, experienced lawyer who assisted us with the process.



Finger Lakes Woodturners

From the Chair (cont'd)

The team has already started the process of filing for our Federal 501c3 not-for-profit status. That will bring the club the benefit of tax exempt status. This is important because any donations of equipment, money, books, etc. that our members make will be tax deductible. Also, it helps our relationship with organizations such as CP Rochester because they feel it is important for us to be a not-for-profit when we use their facility for workshops and events. So please send your thank you cards and gifts to Dave and Kevin for the many, many, many hours they put into this project. We couldn't have done it without them.

As I have mentioned before, one requirement as a corporation is to have meeting minutes taken at our general and Board meetings. Therefore, we needed to add the position of Secretary to the Board. I am happy to announce that Bruce Trojan has volunteered to fill that position. The Board is really excited to have Bruce join us as he brings a whole new perspective and insight to our planning meetings. Please thank Bruce when you see him.

The other major change is that Ralph Mosher is working with Dave Smith on transitioning and taking over the responsibilities for the club's outstanding monthly newsletter. The newsletter is so important for communicating what's going on in the club and with the project photo pages, it's been instrumental in helping members learn one another's names. Please thank Ralph for stepping up and helping the club keep the momentum going.

I am very excited about the three upcoming workshops and classes. There was a very lively discussion at our Board meeting as to what topics, what order and when. Because of the number of relatively new members in the club, we decided to go back to the basics this year. We are starting with a Sharp-A-Thon, then having an Intro to Spindle Turning class and ending with an Intro to Bowl Turning class. This will provide everyone with the fundamentals needed to be a safe and knowledgeable woodturner. It also provides an opportunity for experienced turners to work with the beginners. Again, the fundamental mission of our club is to educate, make new friends and have fun so these events will help us achieve that mission. (See newsletter page 9 for more event details).

The Al Stirt demonstration at the February meeting was just outstanding. Many of us have had the opportunity to see many world class turners over the years. However, I think everyone will agree that AI is one of the best! He was personable, knowledgeable and a great presenter. Everyone should have learned at least one or two new techniques from the demo. I know I personally would gladly pay to see him again.

Thanks again to Jerry Sheridan for the loan of the Powermatic 45 lathe and to Harry Stanton for making the rolling base for the machine. It is easy to move to and from our storage space at Isaac's and will work great for our monthly demos, as proven by Al Stirt.

The March meeting will feature our own Mr. Wizard, David Byrne, as our demonstrator. Dave has been prepping and preparing for this night for a couple of months now. For those that have not seen Dave turn, you are in for a real treat. As a production turner, he is a master at the skew, he turns metal with woodturning tools and spins metal, which is now almost a lost art. He has planned several mini demos, which will be really eye opening for some of you. This is a demo that you do not want to miss! Remember to bring a Show & Share item and something you've embellished for the Challenge project.

Please join or renew your AAW membership if you haven't done so yet. The AAW provides us with our club insurance, 6 wonderful magazines each year and will keep you informed about this year's symposium in Hartford, CT, the closest it will ever be to us. Start making plans to attend the event if at all possible. It is sensory overload for turners. I'll have information on both the AAW and the symposium at the meeting.

I look forward to seeing everybody at the March meeting! In the meantime, keep your bevels rubbin' and the chips flying...

Jim

February Business Meeting Summary

by Lou Stahlman

Straight from show biz, only one word to describe the February Meeting---BOFFO!!!! Maestro Echter opened the show with a blessedly short business meeting. Some but not all of the items mentioned were:

- Many thanks to Jerry Sheridan for loaning the association a real, live, grown up lathe.
- And our deepest gratitude to Harry Stanton for the designing and building a means of hauling that monster around. Good job!!!
- The usual and necessary call for clean-up volunteers. Gottem with no problem.
- And accolades for doorkeeper Ralph Mosher---no strangers were admitted. Remarkable since we have so many strange looking members.
- The Board of Directors is seeking input regarding desired workshops. Some onthe-spot suggestions included sharpening, bowl turning, spindle turning, using a skew, turning boxes, finishing and sanding, turning peppermills, making tools (hook tools), tour of shops and turning hollow forms.
- Rich Connelly introduced his latest wrinkle in the 50 / 50 raffle. That being that you can make a lot more money if you sell the same ticket to multiple players. Great idea, Rich.
- Visitors were identified and introduced but I lost my list.
- Don't miss March---David Byrne is our demonstrator and I am already in line. Metal spinning is among the topics. Jim Hotaling take note.
- The March Challenge Project is to surface decorate, carve, paint, embellish something. Do something besides plain vanilla round.
- Show and Share honorees were Bill, Mark, Mike and Gary. Work shown was scalloped vessel, hollow form, Carpathian Walnut and wine glass. Mix and match however you like.
- Someone brought some Black Willow Burls for sale. I saw Harry Beaver leaving with one under his arm, a smile on his face and a twinkle in his eye. I know he is up to something.
- To a crescendo of applause, Maestro ended the business meeting and we got right into the Feature Demo, conducted by the one, the original, the only, Mr. Al Stirt!!!!

See you in March!!!!!!

Woodturning Limerick

by the FLWT Poet Laureate II

There was a woodturner named Mike With anniversary quite clearly in sight While his mate thought of romance and jewels Suave Mike buckled in to his drools And his wife received new Sorby tools

Al Stirt's Embellishment Demonstration

Summary by Ed Lehman Photos by Dave Smith



Al Stirt

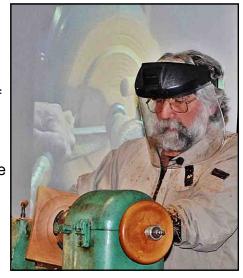
The focus of Al Stirt's demo was a 10 inch x 2 inch square piece with a small center bowl and broad flat outer edges. He chose this type of item in order to demonstrate one of the many ways in which he embellishes the surfaces of wood turnings. Stirt reported that most of his ideas for embellishment come not from wood turners but from pottery, paintings, natural scenery, photos in popular magazines, etc. He began the quest for such ideas in the 1980's, and he has been drawing from any and every source since then.

The first step was to shape and embellish the underside of the bowl. He mounted a square piece of cherry to the top surface with a screw chuck. Among other safety tips, he empha-

sized the dangers of the spinning square piece, keeping his hands well back of it while

it was rotating. Some noteworthy aspects of his turning technique were: (1) higher RPM's than we normally see, (2) lots of aggressive pull cuts for basic shaping, (3) frequent use of a scraper for final shaping and smoothing, and (4) water spray to smooth out his final passes. Using the scraper, he shaped a series of shallow coves from the center outward. He turned a small tenon in preparation for turning the top side.

With the piece mounted in a mechanical chuck, Stirt first adjusted the piece's alignment and then made shallow cuts to be sure the surface was flat. He cut from the outer edge toward the center. He stressed not to cut the flat portion too thin, because you need sufficient material to allow for further cuts during embellishment. To turn the bowl. Stirt made a series of small cuts, leaving the final sweeping and smoothing





cut to the end. He completed the bowl by cutting a set of decorative circular lines on the inside.

The remainder of the demo dealt with techniques for embellishing the top flat areas. He began by drawing circular pencil lines and a series of radial lines as cutting guides. Then he removed the piece from the chuck, reversed it, and recommended mounting it with a vacuum check to allow work on the bottom. (His vacuum chuck was not working well, so he mounted the piece between centers). He removed the tenon and blended the bottom into the bowl's curve. He finished by cutting decorative beads around the bottom.

Al Stirt's Embellishment Demonstration (Lehman, cont'd)

Using a vacuum platform for stability, Stirt demonstrated three patterns of cutting embellishments into the flats. He emphasized randomization-don't cut directly in the lines. Make very short cuts. He made the circular cuts first, and then the radial cuts. The resulting shapes resembled a series of rectangular blocks of random size and placement. Stirt then lightly sanded the flats and painted them with black milk paint. Once the paint dried (5 minutes), he scrubbed the embellished surface with a fine-grit kitchen scrubber. He reported that he would apply a final finish of spray matte lacquer. In the end, it was clear that everyone present was impressed.



In February, Finger Lakes Woodturners had the pleasure of hosting a demonstration by worldclass turner, Al Stirt of Enosburg Falls, Vermont (http://www.alstirt.com) at our monthly meeting. Al is world-famous for his turned and carved objects including square and fluted bowls. For our demonstration, Al turned and embellished one of his signature square bowls.



Photos from: http://www.alstirt.com

Before getting into any turning, Al shared pictures of some of his turned and carved work. Along with these pictures. Al noted some of the inspiration for the embellishments that he does on his turned pieces – many of these ideas come from nature as well as looking at work in other mediums such as pottery. Al's advice here is that woodturners should look outside the world of woodturning for fresh ideas and inspiration. This will help to avoid mimicking the work of other woodturners and will promote the development of a unique style of their own.

Al also shared some thoughts about safety in the shop. He shared experiences where he and other turners have been hurt in the past by not taking basic safety precautions around the lathe. Ultimately, the moral of his safety story was to always wear a face-shield while turning. Good advice indeed!

From there, Al got right into the demo for the night. Starting with a dry piece of cherry about 9" square and 2" thick, he mounted it on a screw chuck with what would be the bottom of the bowl facing out. The screw penetrated about 1/2" into the wood and he noted that he uses the largest jaws on his chuck to eliminate any instability in the piece. Al

also used the tailstock to support the piece and indicated that he always does this for extra safety and only removes the tailstock when necessary, even when using a chuck to hold the work piece.

Al began turning the bottom of the bowl with a ½" swept-back bowl gouge. The rule of thumb here is to always keep your hands behind the tool rest when turning a square object on the lathe. He first created a short tenon for later reversing to a chuck and then moved onto shaping the bottom. He stressed taking light cuts during the shaping process, especially as he approached the edges to avoid chip out. Al often decorates the bottoms of his pieces as well as the tops. Before doing that on this piece he showed how he shear scrapes the surface for a clean cut to eliminate much if any need for sanding. He did this by spritzing the surface of the wood lightly with some water and then scraping with a 1" scraper presented to the work at a high shear angle. This scraper has a slight radius along its tip and is sharpened at a steep angle. After sharpening, Al hones off the aggressive burr left by the grinder with a diamond hone. He puts back a less aggressive burr with a couple of light strokes of the hone before shear scraping the wood. All noted that the water tends to lubricate the cut and soften the fibers of the wood leaving a very smooth surface behind.

After shear scraping the surface, he moved on to creating some shallow coves in the bottom of the bowl using the same scraper but presented at a lower angle to cut the coves. Al first marked out the spacing for the coves with a carpenter's pencil. He doesn't measure any of the markings but rather prefers to do them by eye as mere guidelines for the subsequent turning. With the coves cut, he went back to the shear angle with the scraper, repeatedly pushing in lightly to create a series of grooves across the width of each cove.

Al Stirt's Embellishment Demonstration (Mazzo, cont'd)

With the work on the bottom complete, the piece was reversed and held in a chuck by the tenon. Al again used the tailstock for support as he trued the surface of the piece with the gouge and shear scraper. With the edges of the piece at a thickness (approximately 3/8") that he wanted to remain for carving, the tailstock was removed and he proceeded to hollow out the bowl. Again he started with the ½" bowl gouge. Al performed finishing cuts after the hollowing using a smaller gouge, which had a more traditional grind at a very steep angle. The wings were only slightly ground back and he relieved the heel of the gouge with a secondary bevel. With a light touch and cutting on the left of side of the gouge, Al was able to get a very smooth surface on the interior of the bowl. The last treatment for the interior of the bowl was a series of small surface grooves. Al also made a single deeper groove on the top surface of the piece to serve as a stopping point for the subsequent carving.

Before removing the piece from the lathe for embellishment, Al penciled a series of concentric circles on the flat surface of the piece as well as a series of radial lines out toward the edges to use as guidelines during the carving process. Next he reversed the bowl onto a vacuum chuck to finish the foot and with that, the turning part of the demo was complete.

For carving, Al used a micro-motor tool from Wood Carvers Supply. There are many possibilities for these types of machines (Foredom, NSK, etc.), however, this one is reliable and reasonably priced. Al noted that to get introduced to this kind of work, a Dremel tool would be sufficient. For most of his pieces, Al uses rotary chisels from http://www.rotarychisel.com to do the embellishment. On this piece, Al showed carving treatments with two rotary chisels on different sections of the piece. He also showed another treatment done with a rotary burr shaped like a small cylinder with a rounded top.

The carving itself was done randomly while using the lines on the piece as a general guide. Al first carved along the concentric circles and next along the radial lines to create a random, hatched pattern. Each of the rotary chisels produced different results and Al noted that every piece is different, even if done by the same person using the same tools. Depending on the rhythm of the work and the amount of force used during the carving process, varying results are obtained. A rounded, cylindrical burr was used in a repeated serpentine pattern to produce another design in another area of the turning. After the carving was completed, Al went over it with a nylon bristle brush in a slow spinning drill to remove and fuzz leftover from the carving. He uses 3M radial bristle disks for this as well but the hardware store version that he used in the demo seemed to do just fine.

The last step in the process was to paint the surface of the carved areas with black milk paint. Though Al uses black often, he has started to use other colors as well. Every color and wood combination will produce different results when some of the paint is abraded off the surface once it has dried. Al likes to use black paint with cherry because, once abraded, it shows a coppery-colored sheen under the black. The painting process was quick and simple, and after the paint had dried. All used Scotch-Brite to gently abrade some paint away from the surface of the carvings. Typically, he uses some kind of clear top coat over the surface once the painting steps have been completed, though for the purposes of the demo, the piece was left at this stage.

This demo was a great source of information and inspiration. Al encouraged us all to take the ideas and techniques presented and practice them. He stressed that there is enough room out there for many unique variations on the theme and that we should strive to take these ideas in our own direction as we evolve as woodturners.

Al has additional information on his web site (http://www.alstirt.com) regarding the tools and grinds he uses as well as sources of supply for many of the accessories he uses in his work - look for the Student Resources link.

Al Stirt's Embellishment Class

by Jim Hotaling



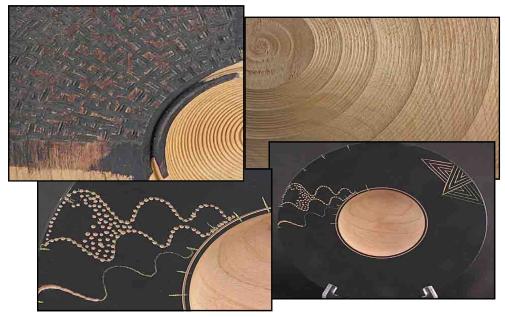
Al Stirt Embellishment Class - February 19, 2010

Back Row: Jim Echter, Ralph Mosher, Jim Hotaling, Ed DeMay, Bruce Trojan, Bob McFadden, Dave Ververs, Mike Hachey
Front Row: Harry Beaver, Ed Lehman, Al Stirt, Ward Donahue, Charlie Bartholomew

Finger Lakes Woodturners Association

On Friday, February 19th, twelve people assembled in Jim Echter's shop to hear and watch Al Stirt demonstrate some of the techniques he uses to create his signature platters, which are unique not only because of their form but because of their texturing. The morning session was spent learning what can be accomplished with good tool sharpness and control.

I for one will be using my square nose scraper a little differently in the future. In the afternoon, participants had the opportunity to layout various patterns on platters they had turned prior the workshop. All in all, the workshop was a real success - not only because Al is a great teacher - but because Jim Echter had every aspect of the day well organized. Thank you Jim and Kathy for your wonderful hospitality.

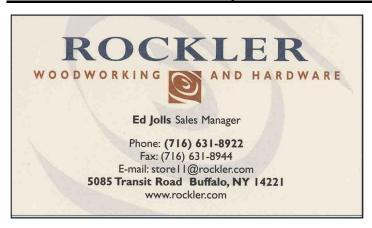


Finger Lakes Woodturners

Treasurers Note by Ed DeMay

Starting January 2010, I will present the Treasurer's report at each monthly meeting. If any member wishes further details of our accounts, I'll be happy to oblige if you contact me.

FLWT Thanks Rockler, a 2009 / 2010 Season Sponsor!



- FLWT members (must show membership card) receive a 10% discount.
- Excludes sale items, power tools & Leigh jigs, CNC, Festool, and Rockler Gift Cards.
- Valid at Buffalo, N.Y store only.
- Not valid with any other coupon or offer.

Isaac Heating & Air Conditioning Special Offer for FLWT

FLWT thanks Isaac Heating & Air Conditioning and Lee Spencer, VP of Finance, for their generosity in letting us use the "Isaac University" facilities for our meetings.

Below is a special offer to FLWT members!



Calendar of FLWT & RWS Woodturning-Related Events

Date		Event	Location / Time	Pre-Mtg Show & Share	Challenge	Demo / Topic	
Mar 2010	18	FLWT Turning Mtg	Isaac Heat- ing & Air Conditioning Classroom 6:00 - 9:00	6:00 - 6:30	Embel- lishment (Bring pieces you have carved, burned, painted, etc.)	David Byrne will demo and talk on the skew, forged gouge, spindle turning with a bowl gouge, turning brass rod and metal spinning. David suggests you visit: http://www.lathes.co.uk/taylor/page3.html	
	20	FLWT Sharp- ening Work- shop (Free)	CP Roch Gym Time: 9:30 – 12:00 & 1:00 – 3:00 (if enough interest)	tools. The sharpen ening right Format - Come as volveme	Bring your grinders, sharpening syst tools. This is an opportunity to learn sharpen your tools and to try out different ening rigs. Format – like the Top and Stopper-A-Come as an instructor or student – w volvement at all levels and capabilities for everyone!		
	23	FLWT BOD Mtg	TBA 7:00 - 9:00				
Apr 2010	3	Introduction to Spindle Turn- ing. Instructor: Jim Echter (\$50 + \$10 Ma- terial Fee)	CP Rochester Gym Time: TBA	Come learn the basics of spindle turning and how wood likes to be cut. Prerequisite – You must attend the sharpening workshop so you have your own sharp tools (or a waver from the instructor). Limit – 8 students (bring your own mini lathe if you have one). Email Jim Echter to commit to the class. <jechter@rochester.rr.com></jechter@rochester.rr.com>			
	15	FLWT Turning Mtg	Mtg Isaac Heating & Air Conditioning Classroom 6:00 - 9:00		ТВА	ТВА	
	17	Introduction to Bowl turning. Instructor: Ralph Mosher (\$50 + \$10 Ma- terial Fee)	CP Rochester Gym Time: TBA	Come learn the basics of bowl turning with one of our club's experts. Prerequisite – You must attend the sharpening workshop so you have your own sharp tools (or a waver by the instructor). Limit – 8 students (bring your own mini lathe and chuck if you have one) Email Jim Echter to commit to the class. <jechter@rochester.rr.com></jechter@rochester.rr.com>			
	20	FLWT BOD Mtg	Dave Smith's 7:00 - 9:00				
May 2010	20	FLWT Turning Mtg	Isaac Heat- ing & Air Conditioning Classroom 6:00 - 9:00	6:00 - 6:45	ТВА	ТВА	
	25	FLWT BOD Mtg	TBA 7:00 - 9:00				

Regional & National Woodturning Events of Interest

2010		Event	For More Information
Mar	27-28	7th annual Totally Turning Symposium, Hilton Hotel, Saratoga Springs, NY, Saturday, March 27 - Sunday, March 28. Featured woodturners include: David Ellsworth, Jean-Francois Escoulen, Graeme Priddle, Marilyn Campbell, Giles Gilson, Kurt Hertzog, Steve Sherman and Mike Kratky. This show will again be part of Showcase 2010, the largest woodworking show if its kind in the US.	http://www.totallyturning.com/
Apr	17	Rockler Open House, celebrating its newly remodeled store, 5085 Transit Rd, Buffalo, 14221.	Tel: 716 631-8922 or http://www.rockler.com
Jun	18-20	This is "The Event!" 24th annual AAW symposium, including Chapter Collaborative Challenge 2010, Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford, CT. Friday, June 18 - Sunday, June 20. Covers a huge range of exciting topics with major presenters / demonstrators including: Trent Bosch, Jimmy Clewes, Nick Cook, Cindy Drozda, David Ellsworth, Michael Fortune, John Jordan, Bonnie Klein, Alan Lacer, Mike Mahoney, Binh Pho, Graeme Priddle, Betty Scarpino, Dick Sing, Mark St. Leger, Curt Theobald, Keith Tompkins and many more!	http://ww.woodturner.org/ sym/sym2010/
Aug	20-22	Chicago Woodturners Turn-On, Chicago 2010, our 2nd Midwest woodturning symposium. Featured demonstrators include Jimmy Clewes, Don Derry, Cindy Drozda, David Nittman, Binh Pho, Dick Sing, and Malcolm Tibbetts.	http:// www.chicagowoodturners. com or email: Paul Shotola

Woodturning Limerick

by the FLWT Poet Laureate II

A turner I once knew owned one ways Which greatly confused him on most days He turned spindles in three ways in two days He made platters in four days in three ways And his bowls he turned two ways in three days

Mentor Contacts¹

Name	Day Tel	Eve Tel	Email	Turning Skills / Specialty
Doug Crittenden	924-5903	924-5903	cleo99@frontiernet.net	General turning
Ed DeMay	406-6111	924-5265	edemay@rochester.rr.com	Bowl turning, dust collection
Ward Donahue	334-3178	334-3178	wddonah@frontiernet.net	Spindle & hollow turning, coring, sharpening
Jim Echter	377-9389	377-9389	jechter@rochester.rr.com	Spindle & faceplate turning, sharpening
Jim Hotaling	223-4877	223-4877	jhotaling2198@aol.com	Christmas ornaments
Ed Lehman	637-3525		eljw@rochester.rr.com	General turning
Ralph Mosher	359-0986	359-0986	2rmosher@rochester.rr.com	Faceplate turning, bowls
Dale Osborne	(315) 524-7212	(315) 524-7212	dborn3@rochester.rr.com	General turning
Tom Pedlow		237-3962	tcp1@frontiernet.net	General turning
Shirley Robbins	(315) 945-3363	(315) 573-7228	srobbins002@yahoo.com	Inside out decorations
Lou Stahlman	248-2097	248-2097	lstahlman@rochester.rr.com	How to cut wood
Erwin A. Tschanz	271-5263 (Dec – Mar)	271-5263 (Dec – Mar)		Historical, bowls, plates, goblets, boxes, bone, antler

^{1.} Here's a great way for you to improve your turning skills. FLWT has award winning and expert turners who, at no cost, are willing to share their expertise one-to-one with other club members. A mentoring relationship might be as simple as getting a mentor's advice in a one time conversation. Or, it might 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, organize your thoughts about your needs and contact an appropriate volunteer mentor above to determine if he or she is a match and available.

FLWT Board of Directors 2009 - 2010

Position	Name	Home Tel	Cell Tel	Email
President / Chair	Jim Echter	377-4838	704-7610	jechter@rochester.rr.com
Vice President	Jerry Sheridan	494-1889	738-4159	cgs1122@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Ed DeMay	924-5265	406-6111	edemay@rochester.rr.com
Secretary & Newsletter Editor	Dave Smith	244-1535		dsmith43rochester.rr.com
Advisors	Rich Connelly	889-4996	943-7397	rconnell@rochester.rr.com
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	Dave Gould	554-6037		d2sgould@aol.com
	Jim Hotaling	223-4877		jhotal2198@aol.com
	Gary Russell	227-8527		cngrussell@rochester.rr.com
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	Debbie Hachey	723-1395		hacheymd@aol.com



Finger Lakes Woodturners http://fingerlakeswoodturners.com/ March 2010

Show and Share (cont'd)



Finger Lakes Woodturners http://fingerlakeswoodturners.com/